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No. 196

House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HORSFORD).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 9, 2019.

I hereby appoint the Honorable STEVEN HORSFORD to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2019, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties. All time shall be equally allocated between the parties, and in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m. Each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, shall be limited to 5 minutes.

PASS USMCA NOW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, this week, I hope and I pray that we are on the verge of passing the United States-Mexico-Canada trade deal, a deal that will literally mean millions of dollars in new market opportunities for Kansas agriculture products, new customs and trade rules for our small businesses, and thousands of new jobs for Kansas that will allow more goods and materials to be manufactured in this great country.

Today, once again, I join nearly 160 of my colleagues in signing a letter urging Speaker PELOSI to hold a vote on this trade agreement. The agreement will set farmers, ranchers, workers, and businesses in Kansas up for long-term success. This will lead to more exports, more jobs, and higher wages. It would be a great Christmas present for all of Kansas and for all the hardworking Americans across this great Nation.

With now just 2 weeks remaining, the House has so far squandered this entire first session of the 116th Congress. There is no excuse for holding a trade agreement up that is expected to create 176,000 jobs, deliver a \$70 billion boost to our economy, and make us stronger in our trade negotiations with China.

Speaker PELOSI, I beg you, stop putting politics ahead of our producers. The House has a great chance to secure a victory for the American people. Let's deliver a win for our economy, pass the United States-Mexico-Canada trade agreement, and give America a great Christmas present this year.

CELEBRATING THE COMPANIONSHIP OF PETS

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, this week is pet week in our office, to celebrate our furry companions and the happiness they bring to our lives.

In this spirit, this is an opportunity to recognize that the pet food industry is simply huge for Kansas. Pet food manufacturers in the animal health corridor stretching from Manhattan, Kansas, to Columbia, Missouri, and from Emporia, Kansas, to Omaha, Nebraska, account for more than half of all pet industry sales in the United States and provide thousands of jobs to Kansans.

Many of our State's finest agriculture commodities go into our domestic animal food production network. As companion animal pet products gain a larger foothold in the overall food market, it is vital we continue

to do all we can to capitalize on that growth and deliver high-paying new jobs for Kansas and encourage the development of the industry to not only benefit our farmers but all of Kansas.

Aside from the obvious economic reasons to support the pet food industry in our State, there are genuine benefits of companion animals to humans. Pet ownership has grown for a reason. Many studies show that having a companion animal, a pet, in the home can reduce depression and blood pressure and provide other mental health benefits. Additionally, there is incredible work being done with companion animals for our military servicemembers when they return home suffering from PTSD and other mental and physical challenges.

Some of the most successful and innovative pet companies in the world are in Kansas, incorporating our agriculture products in their pet food supply. There is a direct link between the pet food industry and the Kansas economy, and I will continue to work to expand those opportunities for the industry, both domestically and, very importantly, internationally.

The House has a chance to secure and encourage pet innovation going on across the country. We look forward to that market growing.

SENATE SHOULD ACT ON HOUSE-PASSED BILLS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. HAALAND) for 5 minutes.

Ms. HAALAND. Mr. Speaker, I reflect on all that House Democrats have done for the people this year and how much harm the grim reaper of the Senate, MITCH MCCONNELL, has done by purposefully stalling our legislative agenda.

Our Democratic House majority has worked relentlessly for the people to

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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strengthen the health, economic security, and well-being of every family in every community, and we have made real progress.

We ended the Trump government shutdown, which inflicted needless pain and chaos into the lives of our fellow Americans and New Mexicans whose paychecks, financial security, health, and well-being were held hostage by the President.

We stood strong and prevailed for the American people and did not give him the immoral, illegal border wall.

To improve the safety of our communities, we sent to the Senate common-sense, bipartisan gun violence prevention legislation that would make our children safer.

As vice chair of the Democratic Women's Caucus, I am proud that we have worked to strengthen women's personal and financial security by passing a strong reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act, the Debbie Smith Reauthorization Act, and the Paycheck Fairness Act to ensure equal pay for equal work.

To bolster the paychecks and retirement security of working families, we passed the Raise the Wage Act to increase the Federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour, giving a raise to 33 million Americans, including 20 million women. We also passed the Butch Lewis Act to protect the pensions of more than 1 million workers and retirees.

To live up to the promises that we made to our veterans, we have passed dozens of bipartisan bills, including fixes to end unjust and unfair taxes on military families; expanded benefits for blue water Navy Vietnam veterans exposed to Agent Orange; and legislation to reduce barriers for women veterans to access the VA, including an anti-harassment initiative.

To address our climate crisis, we passed the Climate Action Now Act and multiple bills to protect our public lands for generations to come. I have introduced legislation myself to promote natural solutions to climate change, such as H.R. 4269, the Climate Stewardship Act, and for the adoption of clean energy, H.R. 5221, the 100% Clean Economy Act.

I am especially proud to have led the bipartisan effort on House passage of the Chaco Cultural Heritage Area Protection Act to protect my ancestral homeland from oil and gas drilling.

We have fought for those who have been the targets of hateful rhetoric and policies of this administration. We passed H.R. 6, the American Dream and Promise Act, to help Dreamers stay right here in the United States, their home, the only country they know.

Democrats have taken a stand to end discrimination against LGBTQ Americans by passing the historic Equality Act, H.R. 5.

To stand up for human rights, we passed bipartisan legislation to recognize the Armenian genocide as the atrocity that it was, hold Turkey ac-

countable for attacking our Kurdish allies, reject the President's disastrous decisionmaking in Syria, and uphold America's commitment to human rights and the rule of law in Hong Kong.

In light of the threats our democracy faces from foes foreign and domestic, we passed H.R. 1, the For the People Act; the SAFE Act; and the SHIELD Act to strengthen our elections and democracy and boost our defenses against foreign attacks on these systems. We passed H.R. 4, the Voting Rights Advancement Act, to protect the right of all Americans to participate in our democracy.

The Democratic House has sent Senator MCCONNELL more than 275 bipartisan bills, yet he still refuses to take them up. The American people deserve and demand action, and we call on Senator MCCONNELL to put our legislation up for a vote.

I am proud to have worked alongside my colleagues in this House majority to move these important issues forward for the people.

STOP IGNORING CRISIS IN IDLIB, SYRIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today again to bring attention to the travesty happening in Idlib, Syria.

A week ago, Syrian dictator Assad, his protector Putin, and his Iranian co-conspirators continued to bomb civilians in the town of Idlib.

The Wisdom House School, a school supported by my constituents in Arkansas, has had to close for the third time due to this bombing and the massive attacks.

I recently watched a video posted on Twitter of the airstrikes hitting a civilian home in the same town where Wisdom House School is located. Many of the children attending the Wisdom House School are now orphans. There are no military targets in this area, which has been repeatedly bombed by the Assad regime.

When we look back on this calamitous conflict, the United States and our allies in Europe will hang our heads in shame for ignoring red lines that gave a green light to Assad's slaughter of his own civilians by the hundreds of thousands.

FUND NATO TO COUNTER RUSSIA

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, since its formation, NATO has served as the foundation for security between the United States and our allies in Europe.

Years ago, the now-29 members agreed to a goal of spending at least 2 percent of their gross domestic product on defense. When President Trump took office, only three countries met that objective. Now, it is nine. President Trump has done a good job urging NATO to meet its obligations among members.

Russia, under Putin, is a threat to freedom that many in the post-Cold War world have fought and died for. For decades, Russia has engaged in propaganda and political meddling in the Western democracies. It has invaded Ukraine and annexed Crimea and territories in Georgia.

NATO members need to meet their defense spending guidelines now more than ever. Actions speak louder than words, and NATO must continue to counter Russia and Russia's political and military actions around the world.

HONORING LIFE AND LEGACY OF JERRY MCKINNIS

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of one of Arkansas' great outdoorsmen, Mr. Jerry McKinnis, who recently passed away at the age of 82.

A longtime Little Rock, Arkansas, resident, Jerry was a pioneer in outdoor cable TV programming. He was best known for his television program "The Fishin' Hole," which featured fishing trips with celebrity guests like Hall of Fame baseball player Ted Williams.

Jerry created the show after playing baseball professionally for a short time. "The Fishin' Hole" aired for 44 years and was the longest running show on ESPN short of "SportsCenter."

Jerry has been inducted into the International Game Fish Hall of Fame, the Arkansas Sports Hall of Fame, the Arkansas Outdoor Hall of Fame, the National Fishing Hall of Fame, and the Bass Fishing Hall of Fame.

Jerry was an inspiration and friend to many across our State, and I extend my respect, affection, and prayers to his friends, family, and loved ones.

CONGRATULATING RACHELLE STEWART

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Chief Deputy Rachelle Stewart for receiving the Lifesaving Award from Saline County Sheriff Rodney Wright.

Stewart responded to an unknown medical emergency to assist EMS personnel with a patient who was unconscious and not breathing. Chief Deputy Stewart quickly recognized the patient was experiencing an opioid overdose and administered Narcan to save the patient's life. Chief Deputy Stewart's action marked the fifth life saved by Saline County sheriff deputies successfully using Narcan in the field.

I extend my congratulations to Chief Deputy Rachelle Stewart and the Saline County Sheriff's Office for saving lives and continuing the hard work of protecting and serving central Arkansas.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 14 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DESAULNIER) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: God of the universe, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We ask Your blessing in these days to come. You know well the contentiousness of this session. Look into the hearts of all the Members of this people's House to discern the good-will within.

May the goodwill You find be rewarded with Your grace. May any contrary spirit be banished.

In the days that come, help each Member to understand well and interpret positively, as they are able, the positions of those with whom they disagree. Grant to each the wisdom of Solomon and to us all the faith and confidence to know that, no matter how difficult things appear to be, You continue to walk with our Nation, as You have done over two centuries.

May all that is done in the people's House be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. ROSE of New York. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. ROSE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from New York (Mr. ROSE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. ROSE of New York led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

CONGRATULATING THE TOTTENVILLE PIRATES FOOTBALL TEAM

(Mr. ROSE of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROSE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Tottenville Pirates football team on an incredible season that took them all the way to the New York PSAL championship game at Yankee Stadium last week.

Now, although they came up just short of their ultimate goal, the Pirates should be incredibly proud of what they accomplished this season. After a loss in their season opener, the Pirates bounced back with a remarkable 11-game winning streak, including a dramatic last-second victory in their first matchup with the eventual champions, Erasmus Hall.

In the championship game, their star running back, Roland Dempster, battled through a hamstring injury until he literally couldn't run anymore and had to be helped off the field by his teammates.

I think I speak for all of Staten Island when I say how incredibly proud I am of Coach Brian Neville and the entire Pirates team for putting up a hell of a fight.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in congratulating them, particularly the graduating seniors, and wishing them well in whatever comes next, both on and off the field.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 9, 2019.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on December 9, 2019, at 10:07 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 743.

That the Senate passed with an amendment H.R. 2486.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

CHERYL L. JOHNSON.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 3 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1501

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR) at 3 o'clock and 1 minute p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

MSI STEM ACHIEVEMENT ACT

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4372) to direct Federal science agencies and the Office of Science and Technology Policy to undertake activities to improve the quality of undergraduate STEM education and enhance the research capacity at the Nation's HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4372

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "MSI STEM Achievement Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Evidence suggests that the supply of STEM workers is not keeping pace with the rapidly evolving needs of the public and private sector, resulting in a deficit often referred to as a STEM skills shortage.

(2) According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the United States will need one million additional STEM professionals than it is on track to produce in the coming decade.

(3) STEM occupations offer higher wages, more opportunities for advancement, and a higher degree of job security than non-STEM occupations.

(4) The composition of the STEM workforce does not reflect the current or projected diversity of the Nation, with Hispanics, African Americans, and other racial and ethnic minorities, significantly underrepresented in the STEM workforce compared to their presence in the workforce more generally.

(5) A stronger national commitment to increasing the diversity of the STEM workforce is needed to help address the STEM skills shortage.

(6) According to a 2019 National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine report entitled "Minority Serving Institutions: America's Underutilized Resource for Strengthening the STEM Workforce", two- and four-year minority serving institutions enroll nearly 30 percent of all undergraduate students—a percentage that is expected to grow in the coming years—in the United States higher education system and play a critical role in providing important pathways to STEM-related education, training, and careers for students of color.

(7) HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs are highly successful at educating underrepresented minority students in STEM fields and can serve as best

practice models for other colleges and universities to further expand participation of underrepresented minorities in the STEM workforce.

(8) Increased investment in STEM infrastructure at HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs has the potential to increase these institutions' ability to educate even more students in the STEM disciplines.

(9) With the demand for STEM skills exceeding the supply of STEM graduates, success of HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs in educating and training science and engineering leaders is increasingly important for United States economic growth and competitiveness.

SEC. 3. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE REVIEW.

Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall report to Congress—

(1) an inventory of competitive funding programs and initiatives carried out by Federal science agencies that are targeted to HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs or partnerships with HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs;

(2) an assessment of Federal science agency outreach activities to increase the participation and competitiveness of HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs in the funding programs and initiatives identified in paragraph (1); and

(3) recommendations of the Comptroller General to increase the participation of and the rate of success of HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs in competitive funding programs offered by Federal science agencies.

SEC. 4. RESEARCH AND CAPACITY BUILDING.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Director of the National Science Foundation shall award grants, on a competitive basis, to institutions of higher education or nonprofit organizations (or consortia thereof) to—

(1) conduct research described in subsection (b) with respect to HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs;

(2) conduct activities described in subsection (c) to build the capacity of HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs to graduate students who are competitive in attaining and advancing in the STEM workforce;

(3) build the research capacity and competitiveness of HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs in STEM disciplines; and

(4) identify and broadly disseminate effective models for programs and practices at HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs that promote the education and workforce preparation of minority students pursuing STEM studies and careers in which such students are underrepresented.

(b) **RESEARCH.**—Research described in this subsection is research on the contribution of HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs to the education and training of underrepresented minority students in STEM fields and to the meeting of national STEM workforce needs, including—

(1) the diversity with respect to local context, cultural differences, and institutional structure among HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs and any associated impact on education and research endeavors;

(2) effective practices at HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs and associated outcomes on student recruitment, retention, and advancement in STEM fields, including the ability for students to compete for fellowships, employment, and advancement in the workforce;

(3) contributions made by HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs to local, regional, and national workforces;

(4) the unique challenges and opportunities for HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs in attaining the resources needed for integrating effective practices in STEM education, including providing research experiences for underrepresented minority students;

(5) the access of students at HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs to STEM infrastructure and any associated outcomes for STEM competency;

(6) models of STEM curriculum, learning, and teaching successful at HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs

for increasing participation, retention, and success of underrepresented minority students; and

(7) successful or promising partnerships between HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs and other institutions of higher education, private sector and non-profit organizations, Federal laboratories, and international research institutions.

(c) **CAPACITY BUILDING.**—Activities described in this subsection include the design, development, implementation, expansion, and assessment of—

(1) metrics of success to best capture the achievements of HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs and students of such institutions to account for institutional context and missions, faculty investment, student populations, student needs, and institutional resource constraints;

(2) enhancements to undergraduate STEM curriculum at HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs to increase the participation, retention, degree completion, and success of underrepresented students;

(3) professional development programs to increase the numbers and the high-quality preparation of STEM faculty at HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs, including programs to encourage STEM doctoral students to teach at HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs; and

(4) mechanisms for institutions of higher education that are not HBCUs, TCUs, or MSIs to partner with HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs on STEM education, including the facilitation of student transfer, mentoring programs for students and junior faculty, joint research projects, and student access to graduate education.

(d) **RESEARCH EXPERIENCES.**—Grants under this section may fund the development or expansion of opportunities for the exchange of students and faculty to conduct research, including through partnerships with institutions of higher education that are not HBCUs, TCUs, or MSIs, private sector and non-profit organizations, Federal laboratories, and international research institutions.

(e) **PARTNERSHIPS.**—In awarding grants under this section, the Director of the National Science Foundation shall—

(1) encourage HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs and consortia thereof and partnerships with one or more HBCU, TCU, or MSI, to submit proposals;

(2) require proposals submitted in partnership with one or more HBCU, TCU, or MSI include a plan for establishing a sustained partnership that is jointly developed and managed, draws from the capacities of each institution, and is mutually beneficial; and

(3) encourage proposals submitted in partnership with the private sector, non-profit organizations, Federal laboratories, and international research institutions, as appropriate.

(f) **MSI CENTERS OF INNOVATION.**—Grants under this section may fund the establishment of no more than five MSI Centers of Innovation to leverage successes of HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs in STEM education and research training of underrepresented minority students as models for other institutions, including both HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs and institutions of higher education that are not HBCUs, TCUs, or MSIs. Such centers will be located on campuses of selected institutions of higher education and serve as incubators to allow institutions of higher education to experiment, pilot, evaluate, and scale up promising practices.

(g) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Director of the National Science Foundation \$170,000,000 for fiscal year 2020, \$175,000,000 for fiscal year 2021, \$180,000,000 for fiscal year FY 2022, \$185,000,000 for fiscal year 2023, and \$190,000,000 fiscal year 2024 to carry out this section.

SEC. 5. AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—In consultation with outside stakeholders and the heads of the Federal science agencies, the Director shall develop a uniform set of policy guidelines for Federal

science agencies to carry out a sustained program of outreach activities to increase clarity, transparency, and accountability for Federal science agency investments in STEM education and research activities at HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs.

(b) **OUTREACH ACTIVITIES.**—In developing policy guidelines under subsection (a) the Director shall include guidelines that require each Federal science agency—

(1) to designate a liaison for HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs responsible for—

(A) enhancing direct communication with HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs to increase the Federal science agency's understanding of the capacity and needs of such institutions and to raise awareness of available Federal funding opportunities at such institutions;

(B) coordinating programs, activities, and initiatives while accounting for the capacity and needs of HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs;

(C) tracking Federal science agency investments in and engagement with HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs; and

(D) reporting progress toward increasing participation of HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs in grant programs;

(2) to publish annual forecasts of funding opportunities and proposal deadlines, including for grants, contracts, subcontracts, and cooperative agreements;

(3) to conduct on-site reviews of research facilities at HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs, as practicable, and make recommendations regarding strategies for becoming more competitive in research;

(4) to hold geographically accessible or virtual workshops on research priorities of the Federal science agency and on how to write competitive grant proposals;

(5) to ensure opportunities for HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs to directly communicate with Federal science agency officials responsible for managing competitive grant programs in order to receive feedback on research ideas and proposals, including guidance on the Federal science agency's peer review process;

(6) to foster mutually beneficial public-private collaboration among Federal science agencies, industry, Federal laboratories, academia, and nonprofit organizations to—

(A) identify alternative sources of funding for STEM education and research at HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs;

(B) provide access to high-quality, relevant research experiences for students and faculty of HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs;

(C) expand the professional networks of students and faculty of HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs;

(D) broaden STEM educational opportunities for students and faculty of HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs; and

(E) support the transition of students of HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs into the STEM workforce; and

(7) to publish an annual report that provides an account of Federal science agency investments in HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs, including data on the level of participation of HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs as prime recipients/contractors or subrecipients/subcontractors.

(c) **STRATEGIC PLAN.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director, in collaboration with the head of each Federal science agency, shall submit to Congress a report containing a strategic plan for each Federal science agency to increase the capacity of HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs to compete effectively for grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements and to encourage HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs to participate in Federal programs.

(2) **CONSIDERATIONS.**—In developing a strategic plan under paragraph (1), the Director and each head of each Federal science agency shall consider—

(A) issuing new or expanding existing funding opportunities targeted to HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs;

(B) modifying existing research and development program solicitations to incentivize effective partnerships with HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs;

(C) offering planning grants for HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs to develop or equip grant offices with the requisite depth of knowledge to submit competitive grant proposals and manage awarded grants;

(D) offering additional training programs and individualized and timely guidance to grant officers and faculty researchers at HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs to ensure they understand the requirements for an effective grant proposal; and

(E) other approaches for making current competitive funding models more accessible for under-resourced HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs.

(d) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 5 years thereafter, the Director shall report to Congress on the implementation by Federal science agencies of the policy guidelines developed under this section.

SEC. 6. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy.

(2) FEDERAL LABORATORY.—The term “Federal laboratory” has the meaning given such term in section 4 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3703).

(3) FEDERAL SCIENCE AGENCY.—The term “Federal science agency” means any Federal agency with an annual extramural research expenditure of over \$100,000,000.

(4) HBCU.—The term “HBCU” has the meaning given the term “part B institution” in section 322 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1061).

(5) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term “institution of higher education” has the meaning given such term in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

(6) MINORITY SERVING INSTITUTION.—The term “minority serving institution” or “MSI” means Hispanic-Serving Institutions as defined in section 502 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1101a); Alaska Native Serving Institutions and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions as defined in section 317 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059d); and Predominantly Black Institutions, Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions, and Native American-Serving Nontribal Institutions as defined in section 371 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1067q(c)).

(7) STEM.—The term “STEM” has the meaning given the term in the STEM Education Act of 2015 (42 U.S.C. 1861 et seq.).

(8) TCU.—The term “TCU” has the meaning given the term “Tribal College or University” in section 316 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059c).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JOHNSON) and the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous materials on H.R. 4372, the bill that is under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4372, the MSI STEM Achievement Act, and I thank Representative WALTZ for joining me in introducing this bill and for his commitment to increasing diversity in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math, or STEM fields.

This bill was developed based upon recommendations in the 2019 National Academy of Sciences report entitled, “Minority Serving Institutions: America’s Underutilized Resource for Strengthening the STEM Workforce.”

The demographics of our country are changing, and we must do more to address the underrepresentation of minority students in STEM to keep our workforce competitive.

As stated in the report, the STEM readiness of students of color will have direct implications on America’s economic growth, national security, and global prosperity. The time to act is now.

Minority-serving institutions have a long record of success in recruiting, retaining, and graduating underrepresented minority students in STEM. However, more investment and outreach are needed to enable the MSIs to realize their potential.

The MSI STEM Achievement Act ensures that Federal STEM education and research funding opportunities are more accessible to the MSIs. The legislation directs the Government Accountability Office to compile an inventory of Federal science agency programs targeted to MSIs and to make recommendations of what more agencies can do to encourage increased participation and success for the MSIs in these programs.

In addition, the legislation authorizes the National Science Foundation to support research on the challenges and successes MSIs have had in contributing to the STEM workforce, including approaches to building the research competitiveness of MSIs.

And finally, the bill directs the Office of Science and Technology Policy to develop a government-wide strategic plan and sustained outreach program to support STEM education and research at the MSIs.

It is important to remember that these institutions are not a monolith. Indeed, their focus on meeting the distinct needs of their students has been critical to their success. In carrying out the activities of this act, Federal science agencies and OSTP should ensure that they are accounting for the diversity among these institutions and the populations they serve. If we are to continue to prosper as a Nation, we must do more to diversify our STEM workforce.

Fortunately, the more than 700 MSIs that enroll nearly 30 percent of our Nation’s undergraduates know how to solve this problem. The MSI STEM Achievement Act will ensure these institutions are equipped with the resources they need to lead the way.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this good, bipartisan bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to cosponsor this legislation led by Chairwoman JOHNSON and Representative MICHAEL WALTZ, which continues the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology’s bipartisan work to support, encourage, and develop the next generation of America’s science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and computer science workforce.

Minority-serving institutions, including historically Black colleges and universities, Hispanic-serving institutions, and Tribal colleges and universities have a long record of success in recruiting, retaining, and graduating underrepresented students in STEM fields.

In my own district, I have seen the unique value of minority-serving institutions. For more than 100 years, Langston University, a historically Black college and land-grant institution, has educated students of all backgrounds. They have influenced people’s lives beyond the classroom in service to the community in both rural and urban Oklahoma. This legislation will help schools like Langston prepare their students to fill the STEM jobs of the 21st century.

Since 1990, employment in STEM occupations has grown by nearly 80 percent. Over the next decade, with demand continuing to grow and U.S. universities expected to produce only less than one-third of the STEM graduates needed, the STEM shortage is anticipated to reach 1 million professionals. At the same time, minorities are severely underrepresented in STEM fields, only accounting for 11 percent of the STEM workforce. To meet this growing demand, talent from all groups is essential.

The Trump administration has also recognized this need by calling for an increase of diversity, equality, and inclusion in Federal STEM programs in its recent 5-year STEM strategic plan.

This bill that we are considering today takes steps to meet the administration’s call to action by providing for increased transparency, accountability, and accessibility of Federal STEM education and research funds for MSIs. Without a diverse talent pool of Americans with strong STEM knowledge and skills prepared for the jobs of the future, the U.S. will not be able to maintain the innovation that supports key sectors of the economy, including agriculture, energy, healthcare, and defense.

I, again, thank Chairwoman JOHNSON and Representative WALTZ for their leadership. I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WALTZ).

Mr. WALTZ. Mr. Speaker, since 1904, the Bethune Cookman University, a

historically Black college, has contributed to a rich and diverse history in my district. Four thousand students proudly call this university home in Florida's Sixth District, and we are proud of all of Bethune Cookman's accomplishments, especially in STEM fields.

Minorities make up nearly 30 percent of America's population, but nationwide, as my distinguished colleague from Oklahoma and the administration have noted, we are seeing a gap in minority representation in STEM fields. Believe it or not, minorities only account for 11 percent of the STEM workforce.

As we all know, the demand for STEM fields is at an all-time high. Over the next decade, the STEM shortage is anticipated to reach 1 million professionals. If we want America to compete and succeed, we must and we need to make sure our workforce reflects our country's diversity. The bill we are considering today, the MSI STEM Achievement Act, would help increase the capacity for minority students and STEM curricula and encourage partnerships with industry and Federal laboratories.

In short, this bill will enhance our domestic workforce, so as to ensure America continues to compete globally. If America wants to lead militarily, economically, and critically in space, we must lead in STEM.

I would be remiss to not also mention the importance of women in STEM. As I have said countless times since I have been elected, and will continue to say, from my experiences as a veteran and a Green Beret fighting all over the globe, where women thrive in business, where women thrive in civil society and in politics, extremism doesn't, and it is just that simple. And for that reason, diversity in STEM is truly a national security issue.

And in Volusia County, in my district in Florida, just north of Cape Canaveral and just north of the Kennedy Space Center, we are seeing countless businesses participate in workforce development programs like the Space Coast Consortium Apprenticeship Program. This program and so many others are making huge strides to advance STEM curriculum and workforce development.

As the Republican lead on the MSI STEM Achievement Act, I want to thank Chairwoman JOHNSON and Ranking Member LUCAS for working with me to improve participation in STEM at these critically important MSIs.

For America's continued predominance in science and technology, I urge my colleagues to support this important bill and for its passage.

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

The United States is in a race to remain the world leader in science and technology. The only way we will win is by utilizing America's most valuable

resource, our people. This means developing a diverse, STEM-capable workforce at every educational level and from every background.

Creating opportunities for students to not only develop STEM knowledge but also to have hands-on experience is essential. Research shows that students, especially those from underrepresented minority backgrounds, are more likely to graduate from science and engineering programs if they have opportunities to engage in STEM course content with peers, participate in undergraduate research, and join science clubs and organizations.

This bill will support such STEM education and training activities at MSIs, providing these students with the skills necessary to develop and flourish in the 21st century. These investments will help grow our workforce, improve our economy, and protect our country.

I, again, would like to thank Chairwoman JOHNSON and Representative WALTZ for their leadership, and I encourage my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I simply want to thank all of the Members and staff involved in this legislation. I urge its passage.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JOHNSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4372, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1515

ENGINEERING BIOLOGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2019

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4373) to provide for a coordinated Federal research initiative to ensure continued United States leadership in engineering biology, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4373

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Engineering Biology Research and Development Act of 2019".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Cellular and molecular processes may be used, mimicked, or redesigned to develop new products, processes, and systems that improve societal well-being, strengthen na-

tional security, and contribute to the economy.

(2) Engineering biology relies on a workforce with a diverse and unique set of skills combining the biological, physical, chemical, and information sciences and engineering.

(3) Long-term research and development is necessary to create breakthroughs in engineering biology. Such research and development requires government investment as many of the benefits are too distant or uncertain for industry to support alone.

(4) Research is necessary to inform evidence-based governance of engineering biology and to support the growth of the engineering biology industry.

(5) The Federal Government can play an important role by facilitating the development of tools and technologies to further advance engineering biology, including user facilities, by facilitating public-private partnerships, by supporting risk research, and by facilitating the commercial application in the United States of research funded by the Federal Government.

(5) The United States led the development of the science and engineering techniques that created the field of engineering biology, but due to increasing international competition, the United States is at risk of losing its competitive advantage if does not invest the necessary resources and have a national strategy.

(6) A National Engineering Biology Initiative can serve to establish new research directions and technology goals, improve interagency coordination and planning processes, drive technology transfer to the private sector, and help ensure optimal returns on the Federal investment.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) BIOMANUFACTURING.—The term "biomanufacturing" means the utilization of biological systems to develop new and advance existing products, tools, and processes at commercial scale.

(2) ENGINEERING BIOLOGY.—The term "engineering biology" means the application of engineering design principles and practices to biological systems, including molecular and cellular systems, to advance fundamental understanding of complex natural systems and to enable novel or optimize functions and capabilities.

(3) INITIATIVE.—The term "Initiative" means the National Engineering Biology Research and Development Initiative established under section 4.

(4) OMICS.—The term "omics" refers to the collective technologies used to explore the roles, relationships, and actions of the various types of molecules that make up the cells of an organism.

SEC. 4. NATIONAL ENGINEERING BIOLOGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President, acting through the Office of Science and Technology Policy, shall implement a National Engineering Biology Research and Development Initiative to advance societal well-being, national security, sustainability, and economic productivity and competitiveness through—

(1) advancing areas of research at the intersection of the biological, physical, chemical, and information sciences and engineering to accelerate scientific understanding and technological innovation in engineering biology;

(2) advancing areas of biomanufacturing research to optimize, standardize, scale, and deliver new products and solutions;

(3) supporting social and behavioral sciences and economics research that advances the field of engineering biology and

contributes to the development and public understanding of new products, processes, and technologies;

(4) supporting risk research, including under subsection (d);

(5) supporting the development of novel tools and technologies to accelerate scientific understanding and technological innovation in engineering biology;

(6) expanding the number of researchers, educators, and students with engineering biology training, including from traditionally underserved populations;

(7) accelerating the translation and commercialization of engineering biology research and development by the private sector; and

(8) improving the interagency planning and coordination of Federal Government activities related to engineering biology.

(b) **INITIATIVE ACTIVITIES.**—The activities of the Initiative shall include—

(1) sustained support for engineering biology research and development through—

(A) grants to individual investigators and teams of investigators, including interdisciplinary teams;

(B) projects funded under joint solicitations by a collaboration of no fewer than two agencies participating in the Initiative; and

(C) interdisciplinary research centers that are organized to investigate basic research questions, carry out technology development and demonstration activities, and increase understanding of how to scale up engineering biology processes, including biomanufacturing;

(2) sustained support for databases and related tools, including—

(A) support for curated genomics, epigenomics, and all other relevant omics databases, including plant and microbial databases, that are available to researchers to carry out engineering biology research;

(B) development of standards for such databases, including for curation, interoperability, and protection of privacy and security; and

(C) support for the development of computational tools, including artificial intelligence tools, that can accelerate research and innovation using such databases; and

(D) an inventory and assessment of all Federal government omics databases to identify opportunities for consolidation and inform investment in such databases as critical infrastructure for the engineering biology research enterprise;

(3) sustained support for the development, optimization, and validation of novel tools and technologies to enable the dynamic study of molecular processes in situ, including through grants to investigators at institutions of higher education and other non-profit research institutions, and through the Small Business Innovation Research Program and the Small Business Technology Transfer Program, as described in section 9 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638);

(4) education and training of undergraduate and graduate students in engineering biology, in biomanufacturing, in bioprocess engineering, and in areas of computational science applied to engineering biology;

(5) activities to develop robust mechanisms for tracking and quantifying the outputs and economic benefits of engineering biology; and

(6) activities to accelerate the translation and commercialization of new products, processes, and technologies by—

(A) identifying precompetitive research opportunities;

(B) facilitating public-private partnerships in engineering biology research and development;

(C) connecting researchers, graduate students, and postdoctoral fellows with entrepreneurship education and training opportunities; and

(D) supporting proof of concept activities and the formation of startup companies including through programs such as the Small Business Innovation Research Program and the Small Business Technology Transfer Program.

(c) **EXPANDING PARTICIPATION.**—The Initiative shall include, to the maximum extent practicable, outreach to primarily undergraduate and minority-serving institutions about Initiative opportunities, and shall encourage the development of research collaborations between research-intensive universities and primarily undergraduate and minority-serving institutions.

(d) **ETHICAL, LEGAL, ENVIRONMENTAL, SAFETY, SECURITY, AND SOCIETAL ISSUES.**—Initiative activities shall take into account ethical, legal, environmental, safety, security, and other appropriate societal issues by—

(1) supporting research, including in the social sciences, and other activities addressing ethical, legal, environmental, and other appropriate societal issues related to engineering biology, including integrating research on such topics with the research and development in engineering biology, and ensuring that the results of such research are widely disseminated, including through interdisciplinary engineering biology research centers described in subsection (b)(1);

(2) supporting research and other activities related to the safety and security implications of engineering biology, including outreach to increase awareness among federally-funded researchers at institutions of higher education about potential safety and security implications of engineering biology research, as appropriate;

(3) ensuring that input from Federal and non-Federal experts on the ethical, legal, environmental, security, and other appropriate societal issues related to engineering biology is integrated into the Initiative; and

(4) ensuring, through the agencies and departments that participate in the Initiative, that public input and outreach are integrated into the Initiative by the convening of regular and ongoing public discussions through mechanisms such as workshops, consensus conferences, and educational events, as appropriate.

SEC. 5. INITIATIVE COORDINATION.

(a) **INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE.**—The President, acting through the Office of Science and Technology Policy, shall designate an interagency committee to coordinate engineering biology, which shall be co-chaired by the Office of Science and Technology Policy, and include representatives from the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Agriculture, the National Institutes of Health, the Bureau of Economic Analysis, and any other agency that the President considers appropriate (in this section referred to as the “interagency committee”). The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall select an additional co-chairperson from among the members of the Interagency Committee. The Interagency Committee shall oversee the planning, management, and coordination of the Initiative. The Interagency Committee shall—

(1) provide for interagency coordination of Federal engineering biology research, development, and other activities undertaken pursuant to the Initiative;

(2) establish and periodically update goals and priorities for the Initiative;

(3) develop, not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of this Act, and update every 3 years, a strategic plan that—

(A) guides the activities of the Initiative for purposes of meeting the goals and priorities established under (and updated pursuant to) paragraph (2); and

(B) describes—

(i) the Initiative's support for long-term funding for interdisciplinary engineering biology research and development;

(ii) the Initiative's support for education and public outreach activities;

(iii) the Initiative's support for research and other activities on ethical, legal, environmental, safety, security, and other appropriate societal issues related to engineering biology;

(iv) how the Initiative will move results out of the laboratory and into application for the benefit of society and United States competitiveness; and

(v) how the Initiative will measure and track the contributions of engineering biology to United States economic growth and other societal indicators;

(4) develop a national genomic sequencing strategy to ensure engineering biology research fully leverages plant, animal, and microbe biodiversity to enhance long-term innovation and competitiveness in engineering biology in the United States;

(5) propose an annually coordinated interagency budget for the Initiative that is intended to ensure—

(A) the maintenance of a robust engineering biology research and development portfolio; and

(B) that the balance of funding across the Initiative is sufficient to meet the goals and priorities established for the Program;

(6) develop a plan to utilize Federal programs, such as the Small Business Innovation Research Program and the Small Business Technology Transfer Program as described in section 9 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638), in support of the activities described in section 4(b)(3); and

(7) in carrying out this section, take into consideration the recommendations of the advisory committee established under section 6, the results of the workshop convened under section 7, existing reports on related topics, and the views of academic, State, industry, and other appropriate groups.

(b) **ANNUAL REPORT.**—Beginning with fiscal year 2020, not later than 90 days after submission of the President's annual budget request and each fiscal year thereafter, the interagency committee shall prepare and submit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report that includes—

(1) a summarized agency budget in support of the Initiative for the fiscal year to which such budget request applies, and for the then current fiscal year, including a breakout of spending for each agency participating in the Program and for the development and acquisition of any research facilities and instrumentation; and

(2) an assessment of how Federal agencies are implementing the plan described in subsection (a)(3), and a description of the amount and number of awards made under the Small Business Innovation Research Program and the Small Business Technology Transfer Program (as described in section 9 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638)) in support of the Initiative.

(c) **INITIATIVE OFFICE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The President shall establish an Initiative Coordination Office, with a Director and full-time staff, which shall—

(A) provide technical and administrative support to the interagency committee and

the advisory committee established under section 6;

(B) serve as the point of contact on Federal engineering biology activities for government organizations, academia, industry, professional societies, State governments, interested citizen groups, and others to exchange technical and programmatic information;

(C) oversee interagency coordination of the Initiative, including by encouraging and supporting joint agency solicitation and selection of applications for funding of activities under the Initiative;

(D) conduct public outreach, including dissemination of findings and recommendations of the advisory committee established under section 6, as appropriate; and

(E) promote access to, and early application of, the technologies, innovations, and expertise derived from Initiative activities to agency missions and systems across the Federal Government, and to United States industry, including startup companies.

(2) **FUNDING.**—The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall develop an estimate of the funds necessary to carry out the activities of the Initiative Coordination Office, including an estimate of how much each participating agency described in subsection (a) will contribute to such funds, and submit such estimate to Congress no later than 90 days after the enactment of this Act.

(3) **TERMINATION.**—The Initiative Coordination Office established under this subsection shall terminate on the date that is 10 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, unless a determination is made by the President that such Office is necessary to meet the economic or national security goals of the Program.

SEC. 6. ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The President, acting through the Office of Science and Technology Policy, shall designate or establish an advisory committee on engineering biology research and development (in this section referred to as the “advisory committee”) to be composed of not fewer than 12 members, including representatives of research and academic institutions, industry, and nongovernmental entities, who are qualified to provide advice on the Initiative.

(b) **ASSESSMENT.**—The advisory committee shall assess—

(1) the current state of United States competitiveness in engineering biology, including the scope and scale of United States investments in engineering biology research and development in the international context;

(2) current market barriers to commercialization of engineering biology products, processes, and tools in the United States;

(3) progress made in implementing the Initiative;

(4) the need to revise the Initiative;

(5) the balance of activities and funding across the Initiative;

(6) whether the strategic plan developed or updated by the interagency committee established under section 5 is helping to maintain United States leadership in engineering biology;

(7) the management, coordination, implementation, and activities of the Initiative; and

(8) whether ethical, legal, environmental, safety, security, and other appropriate societal issues are adequately addressed by the Initiative.

(c) **REPORTS.**—Beginning not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, and not less frequently than once every 3 years thereafter, the advisory committee shall submit to the President, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of

the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, a report on—

(1) the findings of the advisory committee’s assessment under subsection (b); and

(2) the advisory committee’s recommendations for ways to improve the Initiative.

(d) **APPLICATION OF FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.**—Section 14 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the Advisory Committee.

SEC. 7. EXTERNAL REVIEW OF ETHICAL, LEGAL, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND SOCIETAL ISSUES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the National Science Foundation shall enter into an agreement with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to conduct a review, and make recommendations with respect to, the ethical, legal, environmental, and other appropriate societal issues related to engineering biology research and development. The review shall include—

(1) an assessment of the current research on such issues;

(2) a description of the research gaps relating to such issues;

(3) recommendations on how the Initiative can address the research needs identified pursuant to paragraph (2); and

(4) recommendations on how engineering biology researchers can best incorporate considerations of ethical, legal, environmental, and other societal issues into the development of research proposals and the conduct of research.

(b) **REPORT TO CONGRESS.**—The agreement entered into under subsection (a) shall require the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to, not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act—

(1) submit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report containing the findings and recommendations of the review conducted under subsection (a); and

(2) make a copy of such report available on a publicly accessible website.

SEC. 8. AGENCY ACTIVITIES.

(a) **NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION.**—As part of the Initiative, the National Science Foundation shall—

(1) support basic research in engineering biology through individual grants and through interdisciplinary research centers;

(2) support research on the environmental, legal, and social implications of engineering biology;

(3) provide support for research instrumentation for engineering biology disciplines, including support for research, development, optimization and validation of novel technologies to enable the dynamic study of molecular processes in situ;

(4) support curriculum development and research experiences for secondary, undergraduate, and graduate students in engineering biology and biomanufacturing; and

(5) award grants, on a competitive basis, to enable institutions to support graduate students and postdoctoral fellows who perform some of their engineering biology research in an industry setting.

(b) **DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.**—As part of the Initiative, the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology shall—

(1) establish a bioscience research program to advance the development of standard reference materials and measurements and to create new data tools, techniques, and processes necessary to advance engineering biology and biomanufacturing;

(2) provide access to user facilities with advanced or unique equipment, services, materials, and other resources to industry, institutions of higher education, nonprofit organizations, and government agencies to perform research and testing; and

(3) provide technical expertise to inform the potential development of guidelines or safeguards for new products, processes, and systems of engineering biology.

(c) **DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY.**—As part of the Initiative, the Secretary of Energy shall—

(1) conduct and support research, development, demonstration, and commercial application activities in engineering biology, including in the areas of synthetic biology, advanced biofuel development, biobased materials, and environmental remediation;

(2) support the development, optimization and validation of novel, scalable tools and technologies to enable the dynamic study of molecular processes in situ; and

(3) provide access to user facilities with advanced or unique equipment, services, materials, and other resources, as appropriate, to industry, institutions of higher education, nonprofit organizations, and government agencies to perform research and testing.

(d) **NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION.**—As part of the Initiative, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration shall—

(1) conduct and support basic and applied research in engineering biology, including in synthetic biology, and related to Earth and space sciences, aeronautics, space technology, and space exploration and experimentation, consistent with the priorities established in the National Academies’ decadal surveys; and

(2) award grants, on a competitive basis, that enable institutions to support graduate students and postdoctoral fellows who perform some of their engineering biology research in an industry setting.

(e) **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY.**—As part of the Initiative, the Environmental Protection Agency shall support research on how products, processes, and systems of engineering biology will affect or can protect the environment.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JOHNSON) and the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous materials on H.R. 4373, the bill under consideration.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of H.R. 4373, the Engineering Biology Research and Development Act of 2019.

I want to thank Ranking Member LUCAS for joining me in introducing this legislation.

The term “engineering biology” means the application of engineering

design, principles, and practices to biological systems to advance fundamental understanding of complex natural systems and to enable novel functions and capabilities.

Engineering biology research is used in microbes and plants to grow food more resilient to climate change, reduce our dependency on fossil fuels, and make more effective drugs to treat human diseases. Some researchers are even engineering microbes for environmental cleanup. These are some of our Nation's and world's greatest challenges, and engineering biology is one of our greatest tools.

The economy of the 21st century will be driven by the bioeconomy. Other countries are making significant investments in engineering biology research and development. We must recognize that U.S. leadership is not just about growing our economy and ensuring that our Nation benefits from the products of engineering biology; it is also about leading responsibly.

As China accelerates its own investments and the tools of engineering biology are increasingly cheap and accessible to individuals everywhere, we must also be mindful of the security implications. The potential for misuse of this technology to cause harm makes more urgent our need to invest strategically in engineering biology research today.

Along with authorizing a Federal engineering biology research initiative, this bill would also establish a framework for greater coordination of Federal investments in engineering biology; require a national strategy for those investments; expand public-private partnerships; focus on the education and training for the next generation of engineering biology researchers; and address any potential ethical, security, and societal issues associated with engineering biology research.

It is past time for the United States to recognize the significance of this emerging research area to our economic and national security.

I was disappointed by the lack of such recognition in this administration's last budget request but hopeful to see the tide turning with the convening of a recent White House summit on the bioeconomy.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle and with the administration to ensure that the United States will not lose its leadership position in this area.

H.R. 4373 is an important bill, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 4373, the Engineering Biology Research and Development Act of 2019.

I was proud to join Chairwoman JOHNSON, as well as Representatives JIM SENSENBRENNER and ZOE LOFGREN, in introducing this bill.

The U.S. was a key driver in biological innovation in the 20th century, but there is increasing global competition. Other countries recognize the benefits of biotech technology and are striving to capture its potential through new investments and friendly regulations.

H.R. 4373 promotes a national research strategy around engineering biology to ensure that the U.S. remains the global leader in biology and biotechnology.

New gene editing techniques like CRISPR and the advancement of rapid gene sequencing are driving innovation in agriculture, medicine, energy, and manufacturing. We must keep pace and set a research and regulatory framework that supports innovation and creates a marketplace for new ideas and projects, while setting the safety and ethical standards for the world to follow.

H.R. 4373 establishes a national engineering biology research and development initiative to provide interagency research coordination and develop a 3-year strategic plan.

The bill also authorizes research at the agencies under the Science Committee's jurisdiction, including the National Science Foundation, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, and the Department of Energy.

Last month, the White House convened a summit with the Nation's foremost bioeconomy leaders from industry, academia, and government to discuss how to maintain America's leadership in biology for our economic and national security. I hope that summit, along with this legislation, will build momentum for a serious national public-private effort to advance and protect the U.S. bioeconomy.

I urge my colleagues to support this good, bipartisan bill.

I would note to the chairwoman that I have no additional speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have no requests for time, and if the gentleman is ready to close, then I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

In both the Agriculture Committee and the Science Committee, we have discussed biotechnology research and regulation for years, but I can't remember a more exciting or challenging time for the field than today. H.R. 4373 will set a national agenda to advance innovation and help us meet those challenges.

I appreciate the chairwoman and her staff for working with us and the biology stakeholder community to produce a good, bipartisan bill. I ask my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I wish to express my appreciation for Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. LUCAS, Ms. LOFGREN, and myself, and I have no further requests for time.

I would simply urge the passage of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JOHNSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4373, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SUSTAINABLE CHEMISTRY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2019

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2051) to provide for Federal coordination of activities supporting sustainable chemistry, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2051

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Sustainable Chemistry Research and Development Act of 2019".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) Congress recognized the importance and value of sustainable chemistry and the role of the Federal Government in section 114 of the American Innovation and Competitive-ness Act (Public Law 114-329);

(2) sustainable chemistry and materials transformation is a key value contributor to business competitiveness across many industrial and consumer sectors;

(3) companies across hundreds of supply chains critical to the American economy are seeking to reduce costs and open new markets through innovations in manufacturing and materials, and are in need of new innovations in chemistry, including sustainable chemistry;

(4) sustainable chemistry can improve the efficiency with which natural resources are used to meet human needs for chemical products while avoiding environmental harm, reduce or eliminate the emissions of and exposures to hazardous substances, minimize the use of resources, and benefit the economy, people, and the environment; and

(5) a recent report by the Government Accountability Office (GAO-18-307) found that the Federal Government could play an important role in helping realize the full innovation and market potential of sustainable chemistry technologies, including through a coordinated national effort on sustainable chemistry and standardized tools and definitions to support sustainable chemistry research, development, demonstration, and commercialization.

SEC. 3. NATIONAL COORDINATING ENTITY FOR SUSTAINABLE CHEMISTRY.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall convene an interagency entity (referred to in this Act as the "Entity") under the National Science and Technology Council with the responsibility to coordinate Federal programs and activities in support of sustainable chemistry, including those described in sections 5 and 6.

(b) COORDINATION WITH EXISTING GROUPS.—In convening the Entity, the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall consider overlap and possible coordination with existing committees, subcommittees, or other groups of the National Science and Technology Council, such as—

- (1) the Committee on Environment;
- (2) the Committee on Technology;
- (3) the Committee on Science; or
- (4) related groups or subcommittees.

(c) CO-CHAIRS.—The Entity shall be chaired by the Office of Science and Technology Policy and a representative from the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the National Science Foundation, or the Department of Energy, as selected by the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy.

(d) AGENCY PARTICIPATION.—The Entity shall include representatives, including subject matter experts, from the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Defense, the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Food and Drug Administration, the Office of Management and Budget, and other related Federal agencies, as appropriate.

(e) TERMINATION.—The Entity shall terminate on the date that is 10 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 4. ROADMAP FOR SUSTAINABLE CHEMISTRY.

(a) ROADMAP.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Entity shall—

(1) consult with relevant stakeholders including representatives from industry, academia, the Federal Government, and international entities to develop and update as needed a consensus definition of “sustainable chemistry” to guide the activities under this Act;

(2) develop a working framework of attributes characterizing and metrics for assessing sustainable chemistry, as described in subsection (b);

(3) assess the state of sustainable chemistry in the United States as a key benchmark from which progress under the activities described in this Act can be measured, including assessing key sectors of the United States economy, key technology platforms, commercial priorities, and barriers to innovation;

(4) coordinate and support Federal research, development, demonstration, technology transfer, commercialization, education, and training efforts in sustainable chemistry, including budget coordination and support for public-private partnerships, as appropriate;

(5) identify methods by which the Federal agencies can facilitate the development of incentives for development, consideration and use of sustainable chemistry processes and products, including innovative financing mechanisms;

(6) identify major scientific challenges, roadblocks, or hurdles to transformational progress in improving the sustainability of the chemical sciences; and

(7) identify other opportunities for expanding Federal efforts in support of sustainable chemistry.

(b) CHARACTERIZING AND ASSESSING SUSTAINABLE CHEMISTRY.—The Entity shall develop a working framework of attributes characterizing and metrics for assessing sustainable chemistry for the purposes of carrying out the Act. In developing this framework, the Entity shall—

(1) seek advice and input from stakeholders as described in subsection (c);

(2) consider existing definitions of or frameworks characterizing and metrics for assessing sustainable chemistry already in use at Federal agencies;

(3) consider existing definitions of or frameworks characterizing and metrics for assessing sustainable chemistry already in use by international organizations of which the United States is a member, such as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development; and

(4) consider any other appropriate existing definitions of or frameworks characterizing and metrics for assessing sustainable chemistry.

(c) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out the duties described in subsections (a) and (b), the Entity shall consult with stakeholders qualified to provide advice and information to guide Federal activities related to sustainable chemistry through workshops, requests for information, and other mechanisms as necessary. The stakeholders shall include representatives from—

(1) business and industry (including trade associations and small- and medium-sized enterprises from across the value chain);

(2) the scientific community (including the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, scientific professional societies, and academia);

(3) the defense community;

(4) State, tribal, and local governments, including nonregulatory State or regional sustainable chemistry programs, as appropriate;

(5) nongovernmental organizations; and

(6) other appropriate organizations.

(d) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Entity shall submit a report to the Committee on Environment and Public Works, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives. In addition to the elements described in subsections (a) and (b), the report shall include—

(A) a summary of federally funded, sustainable chemistry research, development, demonstration, technology transfer, commercialization, education, and training activities;

(B) a summary of the financial resources allocated to sustainable chemistry initiatives;

(C) an assessment of the current state of sustainable chemistry in the United States, including the role that Federal agencies are playing in supporting it;

(D) an analysis of the progress made toward achieving the goals and priorities of this Act, and recommendations for future program activities;

(E) an assessment of the benefits of expanding existing, federally supported, regional innovation and manufacturing hubs, centers, and institutes to include sustainable chemistry and the value of directing the creation of 1 or more dedicated sustainable chemistry centers of excellence, hubs, or institutes; and

(F) an evaluation of steps taken and future strategies to avoid duplication of efforts, streamline interagency coordination, facilitate information sharing, and spread best practices among participating agencies.

(2) SUBMISSION TO GAO.—The Entity shall also submit the report described in paragraph (1) to the Comptroller General of the United States for consideration in future Congressional inquiries.

SEC. 5. AGENCY ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF SUSTAINABLE CHEMISTRY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The agencies participating in the Entity shall carry out activities in support of sustainable chemistry, as appropriate to the specific mission and programs of each agency.

(b) ACTIVITIES.—The activities described in subsection (a) shall—

(1) incorporate sustainable chemistry into existing research, development, demonstration, technology transfer, commercialization, education, and training programs, that the agency determines to be relevant, including consideration of—

(A) merit-based competitive grants to individual investigators and teams of investigators, including, to the extent practicable, early career investigators for research and development;

(B) grants to fund collaborative research and development partnerships among universities, industry, and nonprofit organizations;

(C) coordination of sustainable chemistry research, development, demonstration, and technology transfer conducted at Federal laboratories and agencies;

(D) incentive prize competitions and challenges in coordination with such existing Federal agency programs; and

(E) grants, loans, and loan guarantees to aid in the technology transfer and commercialization of sustainable chemicals, materials, processes, and products;

(2) collect and disseminate information on sustainable chemistry research, development, technology transfer, and commercialization, including information on accomplishments and best practices;

(3) raise awareness of sustainable chemistry concepts through public outreach activities;

(4) expand the education and training of students at all levels of education, professional scientists and engineers, and other professionals involved in all aspects of sustainable chemistry and engineering appropriate to that level of education and training, including through—

(A) partnerships with industry as described in section 6;

(B) support for the integration of sustainable chemistry principles into elementary, secondary, undergraduate, and graduate chemistry and chemical engineering curriculum and research training, as appropriate to that level of education and training; and

(C) support for integration of sustainable chemistry principles into existing or new professional development opportunities for professionals including teachers, faculty, and individuals involved in laboratory research, (product development, materials specification and testing, life cycle analysis, and management);

(5) as relevant to an agency's programs, examine methods by which the Federal agencies, in collaboration and consultation with the National Institute of Standards and Technology, may facilitate the development or recognition of validated, standardized tools for performing sustainability assessments of chemistry processes or products;

(6) through programs identified by an agency, support (including through technical assistance, participation, financial support, communications tools, awards, or other forms of support) outreach and dissemination of sustainable chemistry advances such as non-Federal symposia, forums, conferences, and publications in collaboration with, as appropriate, industry, academia, scientific and professional societies, and other relevant groups;

(7) provide for public input and outreach to be integrated into the activities described in

this section by the convening of public discussions, through mechanisms such as public meetings, consensus conferences, and educational events, as appropriate;

(8) within each agency, develop metrics to track the outputs and outcomes of the programs supported by that agency; and

(9) incentivize or recognize actions that advance sustainable chemistry products, processes, or initiatives, including through the establishment of a nationally recognized awards program through the Environmental Protection Agency to identify, publicize, and celebrate innovations in sustainable chemistry and chemical technologies.

(c) **LIMITATIONS.**—Financial support provided under this section shall—

(1) be available only for pre-competitive activities; and

(2) not be used to promote the sale of a specific product, process, or technology, or to disparage a specific product, process, or technology.

(d) **AGENCY BUDGET REPORT.**—For each of fiscal years 2021 through 2030, not later than 90 days after submission of the President's annual budget request, the Entity shall prepare and submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives a report that includes a summarized agency budget in support of the activities under this Act for the fiscal year to which such budget request applies, and for the then current fiscal year, including a breakout of spending for each agency participating in such activities.

SEC. 6. PARTNERSHIPS IN SUSTAINABLE CHEMISTRY.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The agencies participating in the Entity may facilitate and support, through financial, technical, or other assistance, the creation of partnerships between institutions of higher education, nongovernmental organizations, consortia, or companies across the value chain in the chemical industry, including small- and medium-sized enterprises, to—

(1) create collaborative sustainable chemistry research, development, demonstration, technology transfer, and commercialization programs; and

(2) train students and retrain professional scientists, engineers, and others involved in materials specification on the use of sustainable chemistry concepts and strategies by methods, including—

(A) developing or recognizing curricular materials and courses for undergraduate and graduate levels and for the professional development of scientists, engineers, and others involved in materials specification; and

(B) publicizing the availability of professional development courses in sustainable chemistry and recruiting professionals to pursue such courses.

(b) **PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION.**—To be eligible for support under this section, a partnership in sustainable chemistry shall include at least one private sector organization.

(c) **SELECTION OF PARTNERSHIPS.**—In selecting partnerships for support under this section, the agencies participating in the Entity shall also consider the extent to which the applicants are willing and able to demonstrate evidence of support for, and commitment to, the goals outlined in the roadmap and report described in section 4.

(d) **PROHIBITED USE OF FUNDS.**—Financial support provided under this section may not be used—

(1) to support or expand a regulatory chemical management program at an implementing agency under a State law;

(2) to construct or renovate a building or structure; or

(3) to promote the sale of a specific product, process, or technology, or to disparage a specific product, process, or technology.

SEC. 7. PRIORITIZATION.

In carrying out this Act, the Entity shall focus its support for sustainable chemistry activities on those that achieve, to the highest extent practicable, the goals outlined in the Act.

SEC. 8. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this Act shall be construed to alter or amend any State law or action with regard to sustainable chemistry, as defined by the State.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JOHNSON) and the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous materials on H.R. 2051, the bill under consideration.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 2051, the Sustainable Chemistry Research and Development Act of 2019.

I want to thank Representatives LIPINSKI and MOOLENAAR for introducing this good, bipartisan bill.

Chemistry touches every aspect of modern society. As the chemical industry continues to innovate to make our lives easier, we must do more to minimize the risks to the environment and to public health. Sustainable chemistry practices and principles, once widely adopted, will provide the private sector with tools to meet societal needs while mitigating negative impacts on the health and safety of future generations.

Unfortunately, progress in adopting this approach has been slow. As we learned during the Science Committee hearing on this topic earlier this year, the key challenges include a lack of research, a lack of Federal coordination, a lack of consensus regarding how sustainability should be measured and assessed, and a need for improved sustainable chemistry education.

This legislation establishes the framework for Federal leadership to advance sustainable chemistry. Specifically, the bill provides for improved coordination of Federal activities, including research and development of more sustainable chemicals, processes, and systems.

The bill also supports improved education in sustainable chemistry and expands opportunities for the Federal

Government to partner with industry to bring innovations to market.

When the Federal science agencies support our Nation's scientists and engineers to come up with better solutions to real-world problems, our brightest minds will always rise to the challenge.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 2051, the Sustainable Chemistry Research and Development Act of 2019.

H.R. 2051 provides for Federal coordination of research and development for new innovations in chemistry, manufacturing, and materials. This bill continues the Science Committee's bipartisan commitment to prioritizing fundamental research that leads to new technologies that will drive the American economy into the future.

Chemistry is essential to our economy and plays a vital role in helping solve the biggest challenges facing the Nation and our world. From farming to medicine, chemical manufacturing touches our lives every day.

There is market demand for chemical products that use resources more efficiently and are safer for both humans and the environment. Consumers also want these products to be just as effective, or more effective, than the traditional chemical products. H.R. 2051 will help support the research, training, and standards needed to meet these demands.

It is rare that a bill has the fundamental endorsement of both chemical companies and environmental advocates.

I thank the bill's sponsors, Representative DAN LIPINSKI and Representative JOHN MOOLENAAR, for their leadership on this issue and for developing a good consensus bill. I encourage my colleagues to support it.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MOOLENAAR), who has been a pleasure to work with, both on scientific matters and on a variety of financial service interests, too.

Mr. MOOLENAAR. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Congressman DAN LIPINSKI for his leadership on this legislation. As always, I have enjoyed working with him and serving with him as the founding co-chair of the bipartisan Congressional Chemistry Caucus here in the House.

Chemistry has improved the daily lives of every American, and I want to thank Chairwoman JOHNSON and Ranking Member LUCAS for their leadership working together to bring the Sustainable Chemistry Research and Development Act of 2019 to the floor this year. This legislation will further the incredible progress chemistry has already

made in the daily lives of people around the world, with new and exciting products and lifesaving cures and innovations.

Chemistry also employs hundreds of thousands of people in good-paying jobs and has made the country the world leader in an endless list of industries and fields. Today's legislation will help that progress continue by directing the Federal Government to improve its coordination of sustainable chemistry research.

The Sustainable Chemistry Research and Development Act of 2019 will bring together the Federal Government, the private sector, and the scientific community to support groundbreaking research in chemistry and keep our Nation at the forefront of innovation.

I thank my colleagues for their support.

□ 1530

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, to ensure the continued leadership of the United States in science and technology, we must invest in research that will lead to the industries of the future. The Sustainable Chemistry Act of 2019 will keep our country at the forefront of chemistry innovation and help create new products that will benefit all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2051, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I simply wish to thank our authors and our staff, and I urge passage of this bill. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JOHNSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2051, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

BUILDING BLOCKS OF STEM ACT

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 737) to direct the National Science Foundation to support STEM education research focused on early childhood.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 737

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Building Blocks of STEM Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The National Science Foundation is a large investor in STEM education and plays

a key role in setting research and policy agendas.

(2) While studies have found that children who engage in scientific activities from an early age develop positive attitudes toward science and are more likely to pursue STEM expertise and careers later on, the majority of current research focuses on increasing STEM opportunities for middle school-aged children and older.

(3) Women remain widely underrepresented in the STEM workforce, and this disparity extends down through all levels of education.

SEC. 3. SUPPORTING EARLY CHILDHOOD AND ELEMENTARY STEM EDUCATION RESEARCH.

In awarding grants under the Discovery Research PreK–12 program, the Director of the National Science Foundation shall consider the age distribution of a STEM education research and development project to improve the focus of research and development on elementary and prekindergarten education.

SEC. 4. SUPPORTING FEMALE STUDENTS IN PRE-KINDERGARTEN THROUGH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN STEM EDUCATION.

Section 305(d) of the American Innovation and Competitiveness Act (42 U.S.C. 1862s–5(d)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(3) RESEARCH.—As a component of improving participation of women in STEM fields, research funded by a grant under this subsection may include research on—

"(A) the role of teacher training and professional development, including effective incentive structures to encourage teachers to participate in such training and professional development, in encouraging or discouraging female students in prekindergarten through elementary school from participating in STEM activities;

"(B) the role of teachers in shaping perceptions of STEM in female students in prekindergarten through elementary school and discouraging such students from participating in STEM activities;

"(C) the role of other facets of the learning environment on the willingness of female students in prekindergarten through elementary school to participate in STEM activities, including learning materials and textbooks, seating arrangements, use of media and technology, classroom culture, and composition of students during group work;

"(D) the role of parents and other caregivers in encouraging or discouraging female students in prekindergarten through elementary school from participating in STEM activities;

"(E) the types of STEM activities that encourage greater participation by female students in prekindergarten through elementary school;

"(F) the role of mentorship and best practices in finding and utilizing mentors; and

"(G) the role of informal and after-school STEM learning opportunities on the perception of and participation in STEM activities of female students in prekindergarten through elementary school."

SEC. 5. SUPPORTING FEMALE STUDENTS IN PRE-KINDERGARTEN THROUGH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION.

Section 310(b) of the American Innovation and Competitiveness Act (42 U.S.C. 1862s–7(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(3) USES OF FUNDS.—The tools and models described in paragraph (2)(C) may include—

"(A) offering training and professional development programs, including summer or academic year institutes or workshops, designed to strengthen the capabilities of prekindergarten and elementary school teachers and to familiarize such teachers with the

role of bias against female students in the classroom;

"(B) offering innovative pre-service and in-service programs that instruct teachers on female-inclusive practices for teaching computing concepts;

"(C) developing distance learning programs for teachers or students, including developing curricular materials, play-based computing activities, and other resources for the in-service professional development of teachers that are made available to teachers through the Internet;

"(D) developing or adapting prekindergarten and elementary school computer science curricular materials that incorporate contemporary research on the science of learning, particularly with respect to female inclusion;

"(E) developing and offering female-inclusive computer science enrichment programs for students, including after-school and summer programs;

"(F) providing mentors for female students in prekindergarten through elementary school to support such students in participating in computer science activities;

"(G) engaging female students in prekindergarten through elementary school, and their guardians (if such communication takes place on school premises during otherwise-scheduled conferences or formal conversations between teachers and guardians) about—

"(i) the difficulties faced by female students with regard to maintaining an interest in participating in computer science activities; and

"(ii) the potential positive career benefits of engaging in such activities;

"(H) acquainting female students in prekindergarten through elementary school with careers in computer science and encouraging such students to consider careers in the computer science field; and

"(I) developing tools to evaluate activities conducted under this subsection, including reports for evaluating the effectiveness of activities under this section."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JOHNSON) and the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on S. 737, the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 737, the Building Blocks of STEM Act.

The demand for computer science skills is on the rise across all sectors of the economy. To ensure that we have the capacity to meet that demand, we must attract more students to study computer science. A major challenge for increasing the number of computer science graduates is the low participation of women.

Even as access to high school computer science courses increases, female participation remains low. At high schools offering advanced placement courses in computer science, only 23 percent of the students taking the exam are girls.

Research shows us that interventions at the high school level may come too late. Girls as young as 6 years old are internalizing gender-based stereotypes that discourage them from engaging in STEM activities, including computer science.

The Building Blocks of STEM Act directs the National Science Foundation to support research into factors that contribute to the early adoption of these stereotypes. The bill also directs the National Science Foundation to support the development of models for intervention to prevent or reverse the effects of these negative and false stereotypes.

I thank my colleagues Representatives STEVENS and BAIRD and Senators ROSEN and CAPITO for their leadership on this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

How appropriate that today the House is taking up S. 737, the Building Blocks of STEM Act, just as the Nation kicks off a celebration of Computer Science Education Week.

S. 737, the Building Blocks of STEM Act, is important, bipartisan legislation to improve science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and computer science, or STEM, education. It directs the National Science Foundation to support STEM research focused on early childhood education and to award grants to encourage young girls to pursue computer science learning. Studies have found that children who engage in scientific activities from an early age develop positive attitudes toward science and are more likely to pursue STEM expertise and careers.

Across the country, the share of STEM jobs has expanded significantly, with STEM employment nearly doubling over the last 30 years. Currently, there are over half a million open computing jobs in the United States, in every industry and in every State. This demand is projected to grow at twice the rate of any other field, and America is failing to meet it.

We can succeed, though, and we can do it by encouraging children, particularly young girls, in STEM in early childhood and sustaining that interest as they grow.

More students with STEM degrees means more advanced American technologies and a more robust economy. But it is not just about the economy. STEM graduates have the potential to develop technologies that can save thousands of lives, jump-start a new industry, or even discover new worlds.

It has been shown that female students who learn computer science be-

fore college are 10 times more likely to major in it. By supporting more hands-on STEM engagement at younger ages, we are supporting and investing in America's future.

I thank Representative BAIRD and Representative STEVENS for their leadership on this bill. The House previously passed this legislation in July and sent it to the Senate for consideration. We are considering it again today with some minor changes from our Senate colleagues.

I encourage my colleagues to again support this legislation and send it to the President's desk for his signature.

Mr. Speaker, the love of learning starts young, and the Building Blocks of STEM bill promotes this by prioritizing a focus on early childhood STEM education. It gives us the opportunity to encourage girls to get involved and stay engaged in STEM, helping us improve our educational programs and diversify the STEM workforce.

Again, I thank Representative BAIRD and Representative STEVENS for leading this bipartisan bill. As the House did in July, I encourage this body to again support and unanimously pass this legislation and send it to the President's desk for his signature.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my appreciation for the leadership of Representatives STEVENS and BAIRD; Senators ROSEN and CAPITO; and the ranking member, Mr. LUCAS. I urge that we pass this important piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 737, the Building Blocks of STEM Act.

I was proud to join my colleague, the Chair of the Research and Technology Subcommittee, Representative Haley Stevens in introducing the House version of this legislation, which unanimously passed this Chamber in July, and am pleased to be speaking today on the nearly identical Senate version of the bill.

As one of only two members of Congress with a PhD in science, I understand the importance of teaching STEM concepts and principles at an early age.

Fostering the natural curiosity that children possess is critical to expanding their interests in science, technology, engineering, and math. Research confirms that kids as young as one, two, or three are capable of absorbing STEM concepts.

Equally important is ensuring that we get more girls involved in the STEM fields, so that we have as many people as possible contributing to the knowledge base of our society.

Like the House version, S. 737 directs NSF to fund research and grants that focus on early childhood and young women in STEM at the K through 12 level.

This bill helps ensure we are preparing our future workforce to fill the jobs of the future.

By passing this important legislation we will continue America's global leadership in science and technology.

I ask my colleagues to support the bill and send it to the President's desk for his signature.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JOHNSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 737.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

IDENTIFYING OUTPUTS OF GENERATIVE ADVERSARIAL NETWORKS ACT

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4355) to direct the Director of the National Science Foundation to support research on the outputs that may be generated by generative adversarial networks, otherwise known as deepfakes, and other comparable techniques that may be developed in the future, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4355

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Identifying Outputs of Generative Adversarial Networks Act" or the "IOGAN Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Research gaps currently exist on the underlying technology needed to develop tools to identify authentic videos, voice reproduction, or photos from manipulated or synthesized content, including those generated by generative adversarial networks.

(2) The National Science Foundation's focus to support research in artificial intelligence through computer and information science and engineering, cognitive science and psychology, economics and game theory, control theory, linguistics, mathematics, and philosophy, is building a better understanding of how new technologies are shaping the society and economy of the United States.

(3) The National Science Foundation has identified the "10 Big Ideas for NSF Future Investment" including "Harnessing the Data Revolution" and the "Future of Work at the Human-Technology Frontier", in which artificial intelligence is a critical component.

(4) The outputs generated by generative adversarial networks should be included under the umbrella of research described in paragraph (3) given the grave national security and societal impact potential of such networks.

(5) Generative adversarial networks are not likely to be utilized as the sole technique of artificial intelligence or machine learning capable of creating credible deepfakes and other comparable techniques may be developed in the future to produce similar outputs.

SEC. 3. NSF SUPPORT OF RESEARCH ON MANIPULATED OR SYNTHESIZED CONTENT AND INFORMATION SECURITY.

The Director of the National Science Foundation, in consultation with other relevant Federal agencies, shall support merit-reviewed and competitively awarded research on manipulated or synthesized content and information authenticity, which may include—

(1) fundamental research on digital forensic tools or other technologies for verifying the authenticity of information and detection of manipulated or synthesized content, including content generated by generative adversarial networks;

(2) fundamental research on technical tools for identifying manipulated or synthesized content, such as watermarking systems for generated media;

(3) social and behavioral research related to manipulated or synthesized content, including the ethics of the technology and human engagement with the content;

(4) research on public understanding and awareness of manipulated and synthesized content, including research on best practices for educating the public to discern authenticity of digital content; and

(5) research awards coordinated with other federal agencies and programs including the Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Program, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency and the Intelligence Advanced Research Projects Agency.

SEC. 4. NIST SUPPORT FOR RESEARCH AND STANDARDS ON GENERATIVE ADVERSARIAL NETWORKS.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—The Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology shall support research for the development of measurements and standards necessary to accelerate the development of the technological tools to examine the function and outputs of generative adversarial networks or other technologies that synthesize or manipulate content.

(b) *OUTREACH.*—The Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology shall conduct outreach—

(1) to receive input from private, public, and academic stakeholders on fundamental measurements and standards research necessary to examine the function and outputs of generative adversarial networks; and

(2) to consider the feasibility of an ongoing public and private sector engagement to develop voluntary standards for the function and outputs of generative adversarial networks or other technologies that synthesize or manipulate content.

SEC. 5. REPORT ON FEASIBILITY OF PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP TO DETECT MANIPULATED OR SYNTHESIZED CONTENT.

Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the National Science Foundation and the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology shall jointly submit to the Committee on Space, Science, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation a report containing—

(1) the Directors' findings with respect to the feasibility for research opportunities with the private sector, including digital media companies to detect the function and outputs of generative adversarial networks or other technologies that synthesize or manipulate content; and

(2) any policy recommendations of the Directors that could facilitate and improve communication and coordination between the private sector, the National Science Foundation, and relevant Federal agencies through the implementation of innovative approaches to detect digital content produced by generative adversarial networks or other technologies that synthesize or manipulate content.

SEC. 6. GENERATIVE ADVERSARIAL NETWORK DEFINED.

In this Act, the term “generative adversarial network” means, with respect to artificial intelligence, the machine learning process of attempting to cause a generator artificial neural network (referred to in this paragraph as the “generator”) and a discriminator artificial neural network (referred to in this paragraph as a

“discriminator”) to compete against each other to become more accurate in their function and outputs, through which the generator and discriminator create a feedback loop, causing the generator to produce increasingly higher-quality artificial outputs and the discriminator to increasingly improve in detecting such artificial outputs.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JOHNSON) and the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 4355, the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4355, the Identifying Outputs of Generative Adversarial Networks Act.

Deepfake technology, which manipulates photos, videos, or audio clips to produce content that seems real but is not, has become increasingly commonplace in recent years. This increase in prevalence has been spurred, in part, by increases in computing power, widespread availability of images and other data, and the use of artificial intelligence.

In many cases, the applications of this technology may be benign, but bad actors can also use this technology to spread disinformation and cause great harm to individuals, organizations, and society as a whole.

During the Science, Space, and Technology Committee hearing on online imposters and disinformation earlier this year, one of the witnesses showed us a demonstration of a deepfake video in which he swapped the likenesses of two Members of Congress at the hearing.

Despite the spread and potential harm of deepfake technology, there are currently no sure-fire methods of identifying and distinguishing manipulated content from authentic content. The ability to differentiate between manipulated and authentic content is essential to maintaining our national and economic security and protecting against malicious use of these technologies.

H.R. 4355 leverages the strengths of the National Science Foundation and the National Institute of Standards and Technology by directing these agencies to support research on manipulated or synthesized content in order to help develop the standards and other tools necessary to detect this content.

I commend my colleagues Representatives GONZALEZ, STEVENS, and BAIRD

for their excellent leadership on this bipartisan legislation. I urge all of my colleagues to join in passing this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4355, the Identifying Outputs of Generative Adversarial Networks Act introduced by Representative ANTHONY GONZALEZ. This bill addresses the underlying technologies for digital content commonly referred to as “deepfakes.” This technology uses machine learning to manipulate videos and other digital content to produce misleading and false products.

These technologies are becoming more sophisticated and, in the wrong hands, present a serious security threat. As we know, bad actors are already using disinformation to disrupt civil society and try to sow divisions among Americans.

H.R. 4355 supports the fundamental research necessary to better understand the underlying technology, to develop tools to identify manipulated content, and to better understand how humans interact with this generated content.

The bill also tasks the National Institute of Standards and Technology with bringing together the private sector and government agencies to discuss how to advance innovation in this area responsibly.

I applaud Mr. GONZALEZ' bipartisan work on this bill and his leadership on the issue of technology and security.

I thank the chairwoman and her staff for moving H.R. 4355 forward. There is a lot of fundamental research that needs to be done to better understand the technologies driving deepfakes and their impact on society. H.R. 4355 will help support that research.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my appreciation for all the Members who have been working on this very important bipartisan legislation. I urge its passage, and I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1545

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JOHNSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4355, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

VIRGINIA BEACH STRONG ACT

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4566) to accelerate

the income tax benefits for charitable cash contributions for the relief of the families of victims of the mass shooting in Virginia Beach, Virginia, on May 31, 2019.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4566

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Virginia Beach Strong Act”.

SEC. 2. SPECIAL RULES FOR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR RELIEF OF THE FAMILIES OF THE MASS SHOOTING IN VIRGINIA BEACH.

(a) CLARIFICATION THAT CONTRIBUTION WILL NOT FAIL TO QUALIFY AS A CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTION.—A cash contribution made for the relief of the families of the dead or wounded victims of the mass shooting in Virginia Beach, Virginia, on May 31, 2019, shall not fail to be treated as a charitable contribution for purposes of section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 merely because such contribution is for the exclusive benefit of such families. The preceding sentence shall apply to contributions made on or after May 31, 2019.

(b) CLARIFICATION THAT PAYMENTS BY CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS TO FAMILIES TREATED AS EXEMPT PAYMENTS.—For purposes of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, payments made on or after May 31, 2019, and on or before June 1, 2021, to the spouse or any dependent (as defined in section 152 of such Code) of the dead or wounded victims of the mass shooting in Virginia Beach, Virginia, on May 31, 2019, by an organization which (determined without regard to any such payments) would be an organization exempt from tax under section 501(a) of such Code shall—

(1) be treated as related to the purpose or function constituting the basis for such organization’s exemption under such section; and

(2) shall not be treated as inuring to the benefit of any private individual,

if such payments are made in good faith using a reasonable and objective formula which is consistently applied with respect to such victims.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Alabama (Ms. SEWELL) and the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. SMITH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Alabama.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Alabama?

There was no objection.

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Virginia Beach Strong Act, a bill authored by my friend and colleague from Virginia, Congresswoman ELAINE LURIA, to ensure that donations to the victims of the Vir-

ginia Beach shooting are tax deductible.

Mr. Speaker, the Virginia Beach community experienced unspeakable tragedy earlier this year when a mass shooting at the Virginia Beach Municipal Center resulted in the deaths of 12 people.

In the face of this terrible tragedy, leaders throughout the city came together and quickly established a fund to support victims, survivors, and their families. The outpouring of support from the community was profound, with over \$4 million in donations to the fund.

Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, these donations are arguably not considered tax deductible charitable contributions because they are divided among specified individuals rather than an organization. A technical fix in the Tax Code would address this issue. This legislation before us today would fix this issue for the Virginia Beach Tragedy Fund and ensure that these donations are tax deductible.

While nothing can reverse the pain of this terrible tragedy, the bipartisan, commonsense bill before us today is an important step toward helping the victims and their families and incentivizing further contributions to the fund. I am proud to stand with the Virginia Beach community in support of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this important legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as we know, a senseless act of violence struck the Virginia Beach community on May 31 of this year. A disgruntled city employee, for no apparent reason other than he may have been offended by some negative reviews of his job performance, walked into a public works building in Virginia Beach an hour before closing and opened fire on innocent and defenseless people, killing 12 and injuring 6 others.

These kinds of events are hard to understand, but it is great to see the community reach out and help. We know that there are always many folks who help around these communities when it is so obvious, and, when confronted with tragedy, they always respond with bravery and generosity.

In acknowledging the bravery of helpers, we would be remiss if we do not honor the first police officers who arrived on the scene, who ran toward danger instead of away from it. They took down the mass murderer before he could cause even more bloodshed. In the process, one of their own was injured in the firefight, his life spared only by a bulletproof vest.

The bill we are considering and, hopefully, passing today is about another set of those who helped, those who also responded with generosity.

As was the case with many other tragic events in our history, a special

fund was set up to help the victims of the May 31 shooting. Under normal tax rules, a special fund like this raises at least three questions:

First, are the payments to these victims from the special fund subject to taxes?

Second, since charities are not supposed to operate for the benefit of special individuals, would payments to a relatively small number of individuals destroy the tax-exempt status of any charity or foundation administering the victims’ fund?

And third, are donations to the special fund for victims eligible for a charitable tax deduction?

The Virginia Beach Strong Act ensures the answers to these questions match what common sense tells us they should be:

No, victims of the Virginia Beach shooting and their families will not be taxed on these payments to provide some financial relief for the harm caused by horrors they suffered.

No, these payments will not threaten the tax-exempt status of organizations which make the payments to victims and their families.

And, lastly, yes, donations to the Virginia Beach Tragedy Fund will be eligible for the charitable tax deduction.

Mr. Speaker, this is our opportunity to be assisting those who need help, as well as by clarifying the tax questions of victims, donors, and charitable organizations. This should be actually considered as a no-brainer.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Virginia Beach Strong Act, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. LURIA).

Mrs. LURIA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of my bipartisan and bicameral bill, H.R. 4566, the Virginia Beach Strong Act.

Just over 6 months ago, our Virginia Beach community suffered a devastating tragedy. On May 31, 12 wonderful people lost their lives in a mass shooting in the Virginia Beach Municipal Center.

During our great city’s darkest hour, we showed the world the strength and resolve that makes us Virginia Beach Strong. We saw first responders heroically running into building 2, sacrificing their safety to save others; doctors working long hours to provide victims with expert care; and many other displays of courage.

May 31, 2019, was a day that will change Virginia Beach forever. We will always remember the 12 individuals we lost that day and their irreplaceable contributions to our Virginia Beach Strong community. My heart continues to grieve for those who lost their lives, their families, and everyone who loved them.

Today, many families of the victims are still facing financial hardships related to the shooting, in addition to the unfathomable loss of a loved one.

In the aftermath of May 31, the city of Virginia Beach established a fund to help victims, survivors, and their families. Unfortunately, a technicality in the Tax Code means that these donations will likely not be considered tax deductible. That is why I introduced the Virginia Beach Strong Act.

The Virginia Beach Strong Act would make it easier to help bring urgently needed support to our community's grieving families. This bipartisan bill would ensure that all donations made to immediate family members of the victims on or after May 31 will be considered tax deductible. It is narrowly written so it does not make any broader changes to our Tax Code or to the nonprofit status.

Today, we all have the opportunity to make a profound difference for the families that have been through unimaginable pain following the Virginia Beach mass shooting.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues in the Virginia delegation for their support, and I urge all of my colleagues to vote for H.R. 4566, the Virginia Beach Strong Act.

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, just to add emphasis to the reason why we are here: We appreciate those around the community and, actually, probably around the country who want to help, certainly, victims in need, and I would hope that we would adjust our tax policy accordingly, certainly to perhaps meet expectations that could not otherwise be met, but also to encourage others to contribute as well.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, in closing, we must take action to fix the tax deductibility of these donations to the Virginia Beach Tragedy Fund, which has done so much to help the community recover from this unspeakable tragedy.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to express my profound condolences and also congratulate Mrs. LURIA on this wonderful piece of legislation that will truly benefit those who were tragically lost and their families, as well as first responders.

Mr. Speaker, I urge every Member to support this important legislation. It is truly bicameral and bipartisan and deserves to pass. I support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Alabama (Ms. SEWELL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4566.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1600

COVERT TESTING AND RISK MITIGATION IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2019

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3469) to direct the Transportation Security Administration to carry out covert testing and risk mitigation improvement of aviation security operations, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3469

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Covert Testing and Risk Mitigation Improvement Act of 2019".

SEC. 2. TSA COVERT TESTING AND RISK MITIGATION IMPROVEMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter, the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall implement the following:

(1) A system for conducting risk-informed headquarters-based covert tests of aviation security operations, including relating to airport passenger and baggage security screening operations, that can yield statistically valid data that can be used to identify and assess the nature and extent of vulnerabilities to such operations that are not mitigated by current security practices. The Administrator shall execute annually not fewer than three risk-informed covert testing projects designed to identify systemic vulnerabilities in the transportation security system, and shall document the assumptions and rationale guiding the selection of such projects.

(2) A long-term headquarters-based covert testing program, employing static but risk-informed threat vectors, designed to assess changes in overall screening effectiveness.

(b) MITIGATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall establish a system to address and mitigate the vulnerabilities identified and assessed pursuant to the testing conducted under subsection (a).

(2) ANALYSIS.—Not later than 60 days after the identification of any such vulnerability, the Administrator shall ensure a vulnerability described in paragraph (1) is analyzed to determine root causes.

(3) DETERMINATION.—Not later than 120 days after the identification of any such vulnerability, the Administrator shall make a determination regarding whether or not to mitigate such vulnerability. The Administrator shall prioritize mitigating vulnerabilities based on their ability to reduce risk. If the Administrator determines—

(A) to not mitigate such vulnerability, the Administrator shall document the reasons for the decision; or

(B) to mitigate such vulnerability, the Administrator shall establish and document—

(i) key milestones appropriate for the level of effort required to so mitigate such vulnerability; and

(ii) a date by which measures to so mitigate such vulnerability shall be implemented by the Transportation Security Administration.

(4) RETESTING.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which measures to mitigate a vulnerability are completed by the Trans-

portation Security Administration pursuant to paragraph (3)(B)(ii), the Administrator shall conduct a covert test in accordance with subsection (a) of the aviation security operation with respect to which such vulnerability was identified to assess the effectiveness of such measures to mitigate such vulnerability.

(c) COMPILATION OF LISTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after completing a covert testing protocol under subsection (a), the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall compile a list (including a classified annex if necessary) of the vulnerabilities identified and assessed pursuant to such testing. Each such list shall contain, at a minimum, the following:

(A) A brief description of the nature of each vulnerability so identified and assessed.

(B) The date on which each vulnerability was so identified and assessed.

(C) Key milestones appropriate for the level of effort required to mitigate each vulnerability, as well as an indication of whether each such milestone has been met.

(D) An indication of whether each vulnerability has been mitigated or reduced and, if so, the date on which each such vulnerability was so mitigated or reduced.

(E) If a vulnerability has not been fully mitigated, the date by which the Administrator shall so mitigate such vulnerability or a determination that it is not possible to fully mitigate such vulnerability.

(F) The results of any subsequent covert testing undertaken to assess whether mitigation efforts have eliminated or reduced each vulnerability.

(2) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—The Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a comprehensive document tracking the status of the information required under paragraph (1) together with the Transportation Security Administration's annual budget request.

(d) GAO REVIEW.—Not later than three years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall review and submit to the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the effectiveness of the Transportation Security Administration's processes for conducting covert testing projects that yield statistically valid data that can be used to assess the nature and extent of vulnerabilities to aviation security operations that are not effectively mitigated by current security operations.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE) and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. HIGGINS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3469, the Covert Testing and Risk Mitigation Improvement Act of 2019.

Before I begin, I would like to take a moment to recognize my dear friend and colleague, Chairman Elijah Cummings, who sponsored this legislation. Less than 2 months ago, the House lost a great leader. Chairman Cummings dedicated his life to fighting for justice and democracy for his constituents in his native city of Baltimore and for the American people.

Today, the House will honor his legacy in the best way we can: by passing a bill he wrote to ensure that TSA does effective oversight of its airport screening operations that are essential to protecting American lives.

Mr. Speaker, the Transportation Security Administration faces serious challenges in identifying and resolving security vulnerabilities in its airport security operations. Specifically, in April 2019, the Government Accountability Office found that TSA was not conducting its covert testing of screening operations in a risk-informed way and that TSA has limited assurance that its tests were targeted at the most likely threats.

H.R. 3469 seeks to make major improvements to TSA's covert testing processes by requiring TSA to identify, document, and mitigate security vulnerabilities found through these tests.

It requires TSA to develop a risk-informed process for its covert testing program and conduct at least three tests a year to identify vulnerabilities in the transportation security system.

Importantly, H.R. 3469 requires TSA to document all vulnerabilities it identifies and how it plans to mitigate them.

Finally, it requires GAO to submit a report on the effectiveness of TSA's covert testing program within 3 years of enactment.

Simply put, H.R. 3469 seeks to enhance TSA's capacity to identify and mitigate vulnerabilities to the security of our transportation systems.

I urge my House colleagues to support this legislation, sponsored by our beloved, departed colleague, to help ensure our transportation security systems are as effective as they can be.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3469, the Covert Testing and Risk Mitigation Improvement Act of 2019, sponsored by our late colleague, the greatly admired Elijah Cummings.

H.R. 3469 responds to identified gaps in the covert testing conducted by the Transportation Security Administration on aviation security concerns. It is critical that our bipartisan congressional oversight be aimed at improving

the security of the traveling public and the effectiveness of TSA operations.

This legislation not only requires TSA to develop a system for conducting risk-informed covert tests but also holds TSA accountable for retesting and risk mitigation efforts. The traveling public deserves the most effective security, and I support the efforts of H.R. 3469 to improve the public's confidence in aviation security.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill and honor the legacy of leadership left by Chairman Cummings.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I have no more speakers, and I am prepared to close after the gentleman from Louisiana closes.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I would like to make the congresswoman from New York, my colleague, aware that I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, we all know that the threats to our Nation's transportation security are real. We also know that, as the main Federal agency responsible for the security of our transportation system, TSA has a critical mission for identifying and mitigating such threats. To be effective, TSA must have a risk-informed covert testing regime that allows it to do effective oversight of its security operations.

H.R. 3469 would improve TSA's testing programs to ensure they can identify vulnerabilities to the transportation system and properly address them to keep our Nation safe.

Mr. Speaker, as such, I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation, H.R. 3469, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3469.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DHS OPIOID DETECTION RESILIENCE ACT OF 2019

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4761) to ensure U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers, agents, and other personnel have adequate synthetic opioid detection equipment, that the Department of Homeland Security has a process to update synthetic opioid detection capability, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4761

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "DHS Opioid Detection Resilience Act of 2019".

SEC. 2. STRATEGY TO ENSURE DETECTION OF ALL OPIOID PURITY LEVELS AT PORTS OF ENTRY.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) shall—

(1) implement a strategy to ensure deployed chemical screening devices are able to identify in an operational environment narcotics at purity levels less than or equal to 10 percent, or provide ports of entry with an alternate method for identifying narcotics at lower purity levels; and

(2) require testing of any new chemical screening devices to understand the abilities and limitations of such devices relating to identifying narcotics at various purity levels before CBP commits to the acquisition of such devices.

SEC. 3. PLAN TO ENSURE OPIOID DETECTION EQUIPMENT RESILIENCY.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall implement a plan for the long-term development of a centralized spectral database for chemical screening devices. Such plan shall address the following:

(1) How newly identified spectra will be collected, stored, and distributed to such devices in their operational environment, including at ports of entry.

(2) Identification of parties responsible for updates and maintenance of such database.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE) and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. HIGGINS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, every American community, in one way or another, has been impacted by the opioid crisis. This crisis, already two decades old, continues to grow and evolve.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 28,000 people in the United States overdosed or died from synthetic opioids in 2017 alone. Virtually all types of opioids, whether finished heroin or potent synthetic opioids such as fentanyl, cross our borders through our ports of entry.

Transnational criminal organizations hide illicit narcotics in legitimate

cross-border cargo, making detection a significant challenge. The potency of these narcotics also varies by the method used to smuggle it into the country.

With fentanyl, we now know that shipments coming through our international mail system often have higher purity levels than those smuggled in cargo crossing our land borders. Often, the majority of fentanyl and other opioids seized at land ports of entry have a purity level of less than 10 percent, making it possible to sell these drugs in our communities faster.

Fighting back against this tactic requires U.S. Customs and Border Protection, CBP, to have adequate detection technology to interject these opioids before they reach our communities.

However, in September of 2019, the Department of Homeland Security, DHS, Office of Inspector General reported that CBP purchased technology to screen for synthetic opioids that was unable to identify fentanyl and other synthetic opioids with purity levels below 10 percent.

H.R. 4761, the DHS Opioid Detection Resilience Act of 2019, is a bipartisan bill meant to address this capability gap. It requires CBP to implement a strategy to ensure its chemical screening devices can identify narcotics, including opioids and synthetic opioids, that are less than 10 percent in concentration.

The bill also requires that CBP follow best practices and good government standards by testing new devices to understand their capabilities and limitations prior to deployment.

Recognizing that drug traffickers change their tactics and the chemicals used as precursors, H.R. 4761 also requires DHS to take steps toward developing a centralized database for chemical screening devices. This would mean that, as new chemicals are identified, their specific signatures will be more readily detected by the screening devices used by CBP's frontline personnel.

DHS must continually adapt and stay ahead of the criminal organizations seeking to exploit our systems. An effective and enhanced detection capability is a critical tool to accomplishing that mission.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my House colleagues to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
Washington, DC, November 20, 2019.

Hon. BENNIE G. THOMPSON,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: In recognition of the desire to expedite consideration of H.R. 4761, the DHS Opioid Detection Resilience Act of 2019, the Committee on Ways and Means agrees to waive formal consideration of the bill as to provisions that fall within the rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means.

The Committee on Ways and Means takes this action with the mutual understanding that we do not waive any jurisdiction over

the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and the Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as the bill or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues within our jurisdiction. The Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation.

Finally, I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding, and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letter on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of H.R. 4761.

Sincerely,

RICHARD E. NEAL,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY,
Washington, DC, November 21, 2019.

Hon. RICHARD NEAL,
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN NEAL: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 4761, the "DHS Opioid Detection Resilience Act of 2019." The Committee on Homeland Security recognizes that the Committee on Ways and Means has a jurisdictional interest in H.R. 4761, and I appreciate your effort to allow this bill to be considered on the House floor.

I concur with you that forgoing action on the bill does not in any way prejudice the Committee on Ways and Means with respect to its jurisdictional prerogatives on this bill or similar legislation in the future, and I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this legislation.

I will include our letters on H.R. 4761 in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of this bill. I look forward to working with you on this legislation and other matters of great importance to this nation.

Sincerely,

BENNIE G. THOMPSON,
Chairman.

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, U.S. Customs and Border Protection law enforcement officers are the first line of defense in preventing the illicit flow of drugs and contraband from entering our country.

I walked the border with my brothers and sisters of the thin blue line, and I have seen what CBP is up against. I can tell you firsthand that our cartel adversaries are ruthless and steadfast in their determination to exploit our laws and poison our communities.

Transnational drug traffickers operate like a business, always looking to capitalize on products high in demand and high with profit margin. Today, their focus is fentanyl, a drug 100 times more powerful than morphine. Just 2 milligrams are enough to be lethal.

Fentanyl and its analogs are being produced mostly in China, but also increasingly in Mexico. Illicit opioids enter the United States through the mail, concealed within vehicles or cargo coming through the ports of entry, and in backpacks of cartel drug runners.

Initially, Chinese drug traffickers were so confident that fentanyl would not be interdicted they sent stacks of

it through the mail. The CBP improved, their targeting improved, and cartels were forced to change their approach, sending smaller quantities and rerouting packages through freight forwarders and other countries to mask their point of origin.

The 2018 DEA threat assessment stated that the purity level of the fentanyl coming across the land border is, on average, less than 10 percent pure. However, a recent DHS Office of Inspector General report found that the CBP's small-scale chemical screening devices cannot identify fentanyl purity levels of 10 percent or less. This is crucial.

The IG also found that there was no policy or centralized database in place to ensure chemical screening devices had up-to-date spectral libraries essential to ensuring all analogs and new opioid forms can be detected. That is why I am pleased to see the House take up my bill, H.R. 4761, the DHS Opioid Detection Resilience Act of 2019.

My bill addresses the gaps in CBP's opioid detection capability by requiring the Customs and Border Protection commissioner to implement a strategy to ensure chemical screening devices can identify narcotics in an operational environment with low purity levels.

H.R. 4761 also requires DHS to develop a centralized spectral database for chemical screening devices to ensure unity of effort across all components they encounter when opioids cross the field.

□ 1615

CBP works tirelessly to prevent this poison from reaching American communities, and this bill helps law enforcement carry out that mission.

I thank Congresswoman CLARKE and Congressmen ROGERS, MCCAUL, KING, ROSE, KATKO, and JOYCE for signing on as original cosponsors and for their support of this important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to make the gentlewoman aware that I have no further speakers and that I am prepared to close.

I urge the adoption of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4761 is a bipartisan measure that received the full support of the Committee on Homeland Security to address a capability need identified by the DHS inspector general. The DHS Opioid Detection Resilience Act of 2019 seeks to ensure that CBP personnel have the best and most up-to-date technology to detect and prevent opioids from entering the country and our communities.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of H.R. 4761, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4761.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

SYNTHETIC OPIOID EXPOSURE PREVENTION AND TRAINING ACT

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4739) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to protect U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers, agents, other personnel, and canines against potential synthetic opioid exposure, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4739

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Synthetic Opioid Exposure Prevention and Training Act”.

SEC. 2. PROTECTION AGAINST POTENTIAL SYNTHETIC OPIOID EXPOSURE WITHIN U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle B of title IV of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 211 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 415 the following new section:

“SEC. 416. PROTECTION AGAINST POTENTIAL SYNTHETIC OPIOID EXPOSURE.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall issue a policy that specifies effective protocols and procedures for the safe handling of potential synthetic opioids, including fentanyl, by U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers, agents, other personnel, and canines, and to reduce the risk of injury or death resulting from accidental exposure and enhance post-exposure management.

“(b) TRAINING.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Together with the issuance of the policy described in subsection (a), the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall require mandatory and recurrent training on the following:

“(A) The potential risk of opioid exposure and safe handling procedures for potential synthetic opioids, including precautionary measures such as the use of personal protective equipment during such handling.

“(B) How to access and administer opioid receptor antagonists, including naloxone, post-exposure to potential synthetic opioids.

“(2) INTEGRATION.—The training described in paragraph (1) may be integrated into existing training under section 411(l) for U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers, agents, and other personnel.

“(c) PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT AND OPIOID RECEPTOR ANTAGONISTS.—Together with the issuance of the policy described in subsection (a), the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall ensure the availability of personal protective equipment and opioid receptor antagonists, including naloxone, to all U.S. Customs and

Border Protection officers, agents, other personnel, and canines at risk of accidental exposure to synthetic opioids.

“(d) OVERSIGHT.—To ensure effectiveness of the policy described in subsection (a)—

“(1) the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall regularly monitor the efficacy of the implementation of such policy and adjust protocols and procedures, as necessary; and

“(2) the Inspector General of the Department shall audit compliance with the requirements of this section not less than once each year for the five years after the date of the enactment of this section.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 415 the following new item:

“Sec. 416. Protection against potential synthetic opioid exposure.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE) and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. HIGGINS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be speaking on behalf of my bill, the Synthetic Opioid Exposure Prevention and Training Act.

We are at a crucial time in our fight against the opioid crisis in our Nation. Less expensive and extremely lethal synthetic, chemically laced, and derived drugs, rather than first-generation opioid pharmaceuticals, now drive the addiction and overdoses that cripple and break the hearts of the neighbors and families of our communities.

We must respond to this changed dynamic in the ongoing opioid crisis with legislation targeted at reducing harm and saving lives.

Most of these deadly synthetics, such as fentanyl, are imported into our country. This bill addresses a specific threat by seeking to eliminate the risk of accidental exposure to synthetics for the workers screening packages and cargo entering our country.

Much of this screening occurs only a few miles from the neighborhoods I represent in New York’s seaports and at the JFK International Airport’s International Mail Facility, the largest mail-screening facility in America, where, every day, we are finding fentanyl hidden in packages from places like China.

Whether cargo and packages are screened by CBP personnel near my district or thousands of miles away, this bill is directly relevant to the

lives of my constituents. Unfortunately, these dangerous and illegally manufactured substances get distributed in communities like mine. This is, of course, true for every district across this country.

The universal threat posed by synthetic opioids is reflected by my Democratic and Republican colleagues joining together as cosponsors of this bill. I am grateful for their support and hope that we can continue to fight the opioid crisis as a united and determined legislative body.

While there is much left to do on this front, H.R. 4739 takes crucial steps toward enhancing our ability to shut down the importation of synthetic opioids. It requires that training for CBP personnel on synthetics be regularly reviewed and updated to respond to the developing threat environment. This includes making sure workers know how to properly handle synthetic opioids and how to administer the reversal drugs, which can save lives if accidental exposure occurs.

Furthermore, my bill requires CBP to ensure that these reversal drugs are in hand at facilities where opioid screenings happen. Fentanyl, according to the CDC, is up to 100 times more potent than morphine or even heroin. Even the smallest dose can kill unless drugs like naloxone are available and quickly administered.

If the workers screening packages for substances like fentanyl don’t have the training and tools they need to be confident they can do their job safely, more of these deadly opioids will make their way into our communities, and more families will be added to the opioid crisis list of victims.

I ask each of my colleagues to support this bipartisan bill, the Synthetic Opioid Exposure Prevention and Training Act.

I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,

Washington, DC, November 20, 2019.

Hon. BENNIE G. THOMPSON,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: In recognition of the desire to expedite consideration of H.R. 4739, the Synthetic Opioid Exposure Prevention and Training Act, the Committee on Ways and Means agrees to waive formal consideration of the bill as to provisions that fall within the rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means.

The Committee on Ways and Means takes this action with the mutual understanding that we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and the Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as the bill or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues within our jurisdiction. The Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation.

Finally, I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding, and would ask that a copy of our exchange of

letter on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of H.R. 4739.

Sincerely,

RICHARD E. NEAL,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY,
Washington, DC, November 21, 2019.

Hon. RICHARD NEAL,
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN NEAL: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 4739, the "Synthetic Opioid Exposure Prevention and Training Act." The Committee on Homeland Security recognizes that the Committee on Ways and Means has a jurisdictional interest in H.R. 4739, and I appreciate your effort to allow this bill to be considered on the House floor.

I concur with you that forgoing action on the bill does not in any way prejudice the Committee on Ways and Means with respect to its jurisdictional prerogatives on this bill or similar legislation in the future, and I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this legislation.

I will include our letters on H.R. 4739 in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of this bill. I look forward to working with you on this legislation and other matters of great importance to this nation.

Sincerely,

BENNIE G. THOMPSON,
Chairman.

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 4739 because of the valuable impact it will have on Customs and Border Protection officer safety.

The opioid epidemic continues to wreak havoc on communities across the Nation. It touches people from every age group, race, class, gender, and background. Parents are losing their children; children are losing their parents. It is devastating.

Illegally manufactured opioids from China and Mexico are pouring into the United States through our mail system and across our borders. The first line of defense against these illicit substances is the brave men and women of Customs and Border Protection. They work tirelessly every day to protect us, and we must make sure they have the equipment and training they need to do it safely.

The safe handling of opioids by CBP law enforcement officers is crucial, as just 2 milligrams can be lethal. H.R. 4739 requires the Commissioner of CBP to establish and regularly update a policy for the safe handling of synthetic opioids by officers, agents, canines, and other personnel.

The bill also requires that protective equipment and opioid receptor antagonists be made available for all relevant CBP employees and canines. When it comes to officer safety, we should never consider ourselves too careful.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to make the Congresswoman aware that I have no further speakers on this bill, and I am prepared to close.

I urge the adoption of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, transnational criminal organizations are constantly developing new forms of synthetic opioids and new methods for smuggling these drugs into our country. To combat such activity, Congress must ensure that CBP officers serving on the front lines are protected from accidental exposure.

This bill is one step of many that must be taken to slow the opioid crisis and end the devastation brought to our communities by this epidemic. By protecting the CBP officers and agents who operate as our frontline defenders against the importation of synthetics, this bill ensures that they will remain safe and equipped to respond to the constantly changing threat posed by synthetic opioids.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4739, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4739.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY MENTOR-PROTEGE PROGRAM ACT OF 2019

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4727) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish a mentor-protégé program, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4727

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Department of Homeland Security Mentor-Protégé Program Act of 2019".

SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY MENTOR-PROTEGE PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle H of title VIII of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 451 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"SEC. 890B. MENTOR-PROTEGE PROGRAM.

"(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Department a mentor-protégé program (in this section referred to as the 'Program') under which a mentor firm enters into an agreement with a protégé firm for the purpose of assisting the protégé firm to compete for prime contracts and subcontracts of the Department.

"(b) ELIGIBILITY.—The Secretary shall establish criteria for mentor firms and protégé firms to be eligible to participate in the Program, including a requirement that a firm is not included on any list maintained by the Federal Government of contractors that have been suspended or debarred.

"(c) PROGRAM APPLICATION AND APPROVAL.—

"(1) APPLICATION.—The Secretary, acting through the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization of the Department, shall establish a process for submission of an application jointly by a mentor firm and the protégé firm selected by the mentor firm. The application shall include each of the following:

"(A) A description of the assistance to be provided by the mentor firm, including, to the extent available, the number and a brief description of each anticipated subcontract to be awarded to the protégé firm.

"(B) A schedule with milestones for achieving the assistance to be provided over the period of participation in the Program.

"(C) An estimate of the costs to be incurred by the mentor firm for providing assistance under the Program.

"(D) Attestation that Program participants will submit to the Secretary reports at times specified by the Secretary to assist the Secretary in evaluating the protégé firm's developmental progress.

"(E) Attestations that Program participants will inform the Secretary in the event of change in eligibility or voluntary withdrawal from the Program.

"(2) APPROVAL.—Not later than 60 days after receipt of an application pursuant to paragraph (1), the head of the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization shall notify applicants of approval or, in the case of disapproval, the process for resubmitting an application for reconsideration.

"(3) RESCISSION.—The head of the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization may rescind the approval of an application under this subsection if it determines that such action is in the best interest of the Department.

"(d) PROGRAM DURATION.—A mentor firm and protégé firm approved under subsection (c) shall enter into an agreement to participate in the Program for a period of not less than 36 months.

"(e) PROGRAM BENEFITS.—A mentor firm and protégé firm that enter into an agreement under subsection (d) may receive the following Program benefits:

"(1) With respect to an award of a contract that requires a subcontracting plan, a mentor firm may receive evaluation credit for participating in the Program.

"(2) With respect to an award of a contract that requires a subcontracting plan, a mentor firm may receive credit for a protégé firm performing as a first tier subcontractor or a subcontractor at any tier in an amount equal to the total dollar value of any subcontracts awarded to such protégé firm.

"(3) A protégé firm may receive technical, managerial, financial, or any other mutually agreed upon benefit from a mentor firm, including a subcontract award.

"(4) Any other benefits identified by the Secretary.

"(f) REPORTING.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the head of the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization shall submit to the Committees on Homeland Security and Small Business of the House of Representatives a report that—

"(1) identifies each agreement between a mentor firm and a protégé firm entered into under this section, including number of protégé firm participants that are—

"(A) small business concerns;

“(B) small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans;

“(C) small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans;

“(D) qualified HUBZone small business concerns;

“(E) small business concerns owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals;

“(F) women-owned small business concerns;

“(G) historically Black colleges and universities; and

“(H) minority institutions of higher education;

“(2) describes the type of assistance provided by mentor firms to protégé firms;

“(3) identifies contracts within the Department in which a mentor firm serving as the prime contractor provided subcontracts to a protégé firm under the Program; and

“(4) assesses the degree to which there has been—

“(A) an increase in the technical capabilities of protégé firms; and

“(B) an increase in the quantity and estimated value of prime contract and subcontract awards to protégé firms for the period covered by the report.

“(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY.—The term ‘historically Black college or university’ means any of the historically Black colleges and universities referred to in section 2323 of title 10, United States Code, as in effect on March 1, 2018.

“(2) MENTOR FIRM.—The term ‘mentor firm’ means a for-profit business concern that is not a small business concern that—

“(A) has the ability to assist and commits to assisting a protégé to compete for Federal prime contracts and subcontracts; and

“(B) satisfies any other requirements imposed by the Secretary.

“(3) MINORITY INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term ‘minority institution of higher education’ means an institution of higher education with a student body that reflects the composition specified in section 312(b) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1058(b)).

“(4) PROTÉGÉ FIRM.—The term ‘protégé firm’ means a small business concern, a historically Black college or university, or a minority institution of higher education that—

“(A) is eligible to enter into a prime contract or subcontract with the Department; and

“(B) satisfies any other requirements imposed by the Secretary.

“(5) SMALL BUSINESS ACT DEFINITIONS.—The terms ‘small business concern’, ‘small business concern owned and controlled by veterans’, ‘small business concern owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans’, ‘qualified HUBZone small business concern’, and ‘small business concern owned and controlled by women’ have the meaning given such terms, respectively, under section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632). The term ‘small business concern owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals’ has the meaning given such term in section 8(d)(3)(C) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(d)(3)(C)).”

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 890A the following new item:

“Sec. 890B. Mentor-protégé program.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN) and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. HIGGINS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 4727, the Department of Homeland Security Mentor-Protege Program Act of 2019.

Since the very earliest days of the Department of Homeland Security, it has operated a mentor-protege program to encourage large businesses to help small businesses build their capacity to compete for government contracts. However, this important program was never codified into law. H.R. 4727 not only authorizes the existing program but improves it.

Small businesses, including women-, veteran-, and minority-owned firms, are the backbone of our economy, but far too often, complex Federal contracting requirements shut them out of the Federal marketplace.

Building and sustaining a reliable pool of small business vendors is critical to ensuring that DHS and its ever-evolving contracting needs are met and that America's security is enhanced. H.R. 4727 seeks to build and sustain this pool by incentivizing large businesses to provide technical, managerial, financial assistance, and subcontracting opportunities to small businesses. This bill requires participating businesses to commit to a mentor-protege relationship for 3 years to help establish long-term relationships between large and small contractors.

Additionally, to ensure that Congress can monitor the effectiveness of the program in an ongoing way, it requires DHS to annually report on program participation and the benefits conferred upon small businesses.

Enactment of H.R. 4727 will ensure the continued and lasting success of the mentor-protege program, a vital small business program.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to pass this commonsense legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4727, the Department of Homeland Security Mentor-Protege Program Act of 2019.

The Department of Homeland Security has an important mission to protect this Nation, but they cannot do it on their own. For many functions, DHS relies on contractors to get the job done.

H.R. 4727 would expand the contractor pool that DHS relies on by cre-

ating a mentor-protege program to help small businesses grow their technical capabilities.

□ 1630

I support the legislation and the creation of this program at DHS, modeled after a similar one at the Department of Defense. Under the program, larger contractors would develop agreements with smaller firms to provide assistance and to potentially involve the smaller firm in DHS contracts at a sub-contractor level.

To provide transparency into this program, the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization will report annually to Congress. This will allow us to evaluate the benefit of this program and its progress in developing the contractor base.

I would like to thank Representative MCEACHIN for introducing H.R. 4727 and for his work to grow the capability of small businesses that contract for the DHS.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I do urge the adoption of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, formally authorizing the Department of Homeland Security's mentor-protege program will ensure the continued success of this important small business program.

DHS is to be commended in its earliest days for setting this program up.

I thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MCEACHIN) for introducing this bill to help grow partnerships between small businesses and DHS.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4727, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4727.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EMERGING TRANSPORTATION SECURITY THREATS ACT OF 2019

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3318) to require the Transportation Security Administration to establish a task force to conduct an analysis of emerging and potential future threats to transportation security, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3318

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Emerging Transportation Security Threats Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. EMERGING AND FUTURE THREATS TASK FORCE.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration, in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence and the intelligence community (as such term is defined in section 3(4) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003(4))) and the heads of other Federal agencies, as determined appropriate by the Administrator, shall establish a task force to conduct an analysis of emerging and potential future threats to transportation security.

(b) **MEMBERSHIP.**—The task force established under subsection (a) shall be comprised of employees of the Department of Homeland Security who, in carrying out the analysis required under such subsection, shall consult with the Director of National Intelligence and the intelligence community and the heads of Federal agencies, as determined appropriate by the Administrator.

(c) **DEADLINE.**—Not later than 270 days after the Administrator establishes the task force under subsection (a), the task force shall submit to the Administrator the analysis required under such subsection.

(d) **ELEMENTS.**—The analysis required under subsection (a) shall include emerging and potential future threats posed by the following:

(1) Evolving tactics by terrorist organizations that may pose a catastrophic risk to an aviation or surface transportation entity.

(2) Explosive and explosive devices or attacks involving the use of explosives that may cause catastrophic damage to an aviation or surface transportation system.

(3) Chemical or biological agents being released in either aviation or surface transportation systems.

(4) Cyberthreat actors seeking to undermine confidence in transportation systems or cause service disruptions that jeopardize transportation security.

(5) Unmanned aerial systems with the capability of inflicting harm on transportation targets.

(6) Individuals or groups seeking to attack soft targets, public areas, or crowded spaces of transportation systems, including attacks against Transportation Security Administration employees and other security personnel.

(7) Foreign actors seeking to exploit vulnerabilities posed by the inconsistent or inadequate security screening protocols at last point of departure airports with direct flights to the United States.

(8) Information sharing challenges within the Federal Government and among partner governments.

(9) Information sharing challenges between the Administration or other relevant Federal agencies and transportation stakeholders, including air carriers, airport operators, surface transportation operators, and State and local law enforcement.

(10) Growth in passenger volume in both the aviation and surface transportation sectors.

(e) **MITIGATION.**—Not later than 120 days after the completion of the analysis required under subsection (a), the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall develop, as appropriate, a threat mitigation strategy for each of the threats examined in such analysis, and—

(1) assign appropriate resources of the Administration to address such threats, based on calculated risk; or

(2) provide recommendations through the Department of Homeland Security to the appropriate Federal department or agency responsible for addressing such threats.

(f) **STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT.**—When carrying out the analysis required under subsection (a), the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall engage transportation stakeholders referred to in subsection

(b)(9) and account for security concerns of transportation operators by—

(1) convening not fewer than three industry day events for such transportation stakeholders to hear from relevant public and private sector security partners and provide feedback on threats such transportation stakeholders identify as emerging;

(2) developing strategies to solicit feedback on a consistent basis from such transportation stakeholders across all modes of transportation and providing consistent responses to stakeholder concerns;

(3) improving the quality, timeliness, and relevancy of information sharing products disseminated by the Administration to such transportation stakeholders, including classified information sharing products;

(4) coordinating security incident response and communications drills, including tabletop exercises, to improve incident preparedness and response capabilities across transportation modes and among transportation systems;

(5) encouraging regular communication between Federal Security Directors, Field Intelligence Officers, Federal Air Marshal Special Agents in Charge, and such transportation stakeholders;

(6) establishing regular opportunities for senior Administration leadership to engage with such transportation stakeholders regarding changes in the threat environment and how the Administration can offer security support to address such changes; and

(7) briefing the Aviation Security Advisory Committee and the Surface Transportation Security Advisory Committee on the efforts of the task force established pursuant to subsection (a).

(g) **BRIEFING TO CONGRESS.**—The Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall brief the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate on the results of the analysis required under subsection (a) and relevant mitigation strategies developed in accordance with subsection (c).

(h) **NON-APPLICABILITY OF FACA AND PRA.**—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) and the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.) shall not apply to the task force established under subsection (a).

SEC. 3. COMPTROLLER GENERAL STUDY.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a review of the feasibility, risks, costs, and potential threat mitigation benefits of the Transportation Security Administration deploying the agency's passenger and property screening assets to conduct screening in areas or facilities prior to passenger arrival at airport terminals.

(b) **STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT.**—In conducting the review required under subsection (a), the Comptroller General of the United States shall consult with the Transportation Security Administration, airport operators, air carriers, businesses that operate in airports, labor groups representing the Transportation Security Administration and transportation sector personnel, and other stakeholders.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN) and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. HIGGINS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to in-

clude extraneous material on this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H.R. 3318, the Emerging Transportation Security Threats Act of 2019.

Millions of people travel every day and rely on a secure transportation system to get them to their destination safely. Terrorists and other nefarious actors are constantly looking for new ways to attack and disrupt our Nation's transportation systems. All it takes is one successful attack for the public to lose confidence in the system as a whole.

We must ensure that our security systems remain one step ahead of nefarious actors and that all entities responsible for transportation security are collaborating and sharing information in an effective manner to help prevent an attack. This bill is a good step in this direction.

Importantly, it requires the TSA, in consultation with the intelligence community and other relevant Federal agencies, to establish a task force to analyze emerging and future threats to transportation security. Having individuals from across the Federal Government work together to assess emerging threats will help promote collaboration and efficiency across the agencies.

After the analysis is complete, H.R. 3318 requires TSA to develop a threat mitigation strategy for each threat the task force identifies. These mitigation strategies will be important tools for TSA as they consider how best to prevent potential threats from occurring.

Finally, the bill requires the Government Accountability Office to conduct a review to determine the costs and benefits of conducting screening prior to passenger arrival at an airport terminal.

Mr. Speaker, we must do all that we can to prevent an attack on our transportation systems. This bill promotes collaboration to put our security agencies in a better position to identify and mitigate threats.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my House colleagues to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3318, the Emerging Transportation Security Threats Act of 2019, sponsored by my good friend and colleague, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE).

This legislation establishes a task force aimed at improving the security of the traveling public by bringing together relevant Federal authorities and transportation security stakeholders.

The task force established by this legislation will look at emerging and

potential future threats to transportation security from a number of threat vectors, including cybersecurity, explosives, public area security, and evolving terrorist attacks.

This bill also directs the Administrator of the TSA to develop relevant threat mitigation plans in close coordination with transportation security stakeholders and appropriate Federal agencies.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania for his leadership on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, I have no more speakers, and I am prepared to close after the gentleman from Louisiana closes.

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE).

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 3318, the Emerging Transportation Security Threats Act of 2019. This legislation will ensure that Homeland Security is forward-looking in regard to threats facing America's transportation systems.

My district, Pennsylvania's 13th, is home to the Flight 93 National Memorial in Somerset County, which serves as a stark reminder of the heroism of ordinary Americans and why, as a Congress, we must act to protect our Nation against threats to the homeland.

Oftentimes, the Transportation Security Administration faces criticism from Congress, stakeholders, and the traveling public that the agency is too reactionary to evolving threats and not proactive enough in mitigating emerging threats to transportation.

H.R. 3318 seeks to improve collaboration among the TSA, the intelligence community, other Federal agencies, and transportation security stakeholders by creating a task force to conduct an analysis of emerging threats to transportation security. Once established, this task force will examine threats posed by evolving terrorist tactics, explosive devices, chemical and biological agents, cyber actors, unmanned aerial systems, and inadequate information sharing, among other security challenges.

For each threat examined by the task force established in this legislation, the TSA is directed to develop a mitigation strategy to protect the traveling public and identify needed security enhancements. This bill ensures that each of these efforts will include close collaboration with transportation stakeholders on the development of security strategies, improved information sharing practices, and regular interactions with senior TSA leadership on security matters.

Finally, this legislation requires the Government Accountability Office to conduct a review ensuring that the TSA effectively implements the bill's requirements.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Louisiana, CLAY HIGGINS, for his support of this bill and for working to bring it to the floor today. I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, securing our Nation's transportation systems from successful attack requires the collaboration of all stakeholders responsible for transportation security.

I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE) for bringing this legislation forward, and I urge passage of H.R. 3318.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3318, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY OFFICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS AND CIVIL LIBERTIES AUTHORIZATION ACT

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4713) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to make certain improvements in the Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4713

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Department of Homeland Security Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Authorization Act".

SEC. 2. OFFICER FOR CIVIL RIGHTS AND CIVIL LIBERTIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 705 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 345) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking "ESTABLISHMENT OF"; and

(2) by striking subsections (a) and (b) and inserting the following new subsections:

"(a) IN GENERAL.—There is established within the Department an Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties. The head of such Office is the Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, who shall report directly to the Secretary.

"(b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties shall carry out the following responsibilities:

"(1) Oversee compliance with constitutional, statutory, regulatory, policy, and other requirements relating to the civil rights and civil liberties of individuals affected by the programs and activities of the Department.

"(2) Integrate civil rights and civil liberties protections into all programs and activities of the Department.

"(3) Conduct civil rights and civil liberties impact assessments, as appropriate, including prior to the implementation of new Department regulations, initiatives, programs, or policies.

"(4) Conduct periodic reviews of policies, procedures, and activities of the Department relating to civil rights and civil liberties.

"(5) Provide policy advice, recommendations, and other technical assistance relating to civil rights and civil liberties to the Secretary and to heads of components, directorates, and offices and other personnel within the Department.

"(6) Review, assess, and investigate complaints, including complaints filed by members of the public, and information indicating possible abuses of civil rights or civil liberties at the Department, unless the Inspector General of the Department determines that any such complaint should be investigated by the Inspector General.

"(7) Initiate reviews, investigations, and assessments of the administration of the programs and activities by the Department relating to civil rights and civil liberties, as the Officer determines necessary.

"(8) Coordinate with the Privacy Officer to ensure that—

"(A) programs, policies, and procedures involving civil rights, civil liberties, and privacy considerations are addressed in an integrated and comprehensive manner; and

"(B) Congress receives appropriate reports regarding such programs, policies, and procedures.

"(9) Lead the equal employment opportunity programs of the Department, including complaint management and adjudication, workforce diversity, and promotion of the merit system principles.

"(10) Make publicly available through accessible communications channels, including the website of the Department—

"(A) information on the responsibilities and functions of, and how to contact, the Office; and

"(B) summary of reports of investigations that result in final recommendations that are issued by the Officer upon completion of investigations carried out pursuant to paragraph (6); and

"(C) summaries of impact assessments issued by the Officer and carried out pursuant to paragraph (3) or (7).

"(11) Engage with individuals and communities whose civil rights and civil liberties may be affected by programs and activities of the Department, including by informing such individuals and communities about report and redress processes and advising the Secretary and heads of components, directorates, offices, and other personnel within the Department of concerns raised by such individuals and communities.

"(c) COORDINATION WITH INSPECTOR GENERAL.—

"(1) AUTHORITY TO INVESTIGATE POSSIBLE ABUSES.—The Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties may investigate any matter referred to in paragraph (6) or (7) of subsection (b) after fulfilling the coordination requirements under paragraph (2) with respect to such matter.

"(2) COORDINATION REQUIREMENTS.—

"(A) REFERRAL OF MATTERS TO INSPECTOR GENERAL.—Before initiating any investigation described under paragraph (1), the Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties shall refer the matter and all related complaints to the Inspector General of the Department.

"(B) INSPECTOR GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES.—

“(i) DETERMINATION AND NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 5 business days after the receipt of a matter referred under subparagraph (A), the Inspector General shall—

“(I) make a determination regarding whether the Inspector General intends to initiate an audit or investigation of the matter referred under subparagraph (A); and

“(II) notify the Officer of such determination.

“(ii) AUDITS AND INVESTIGATIONS.—If the Inspector General notifies the Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties that the Inspector General intends to initiate an audit or investigation, the Inspector General shall—

“(I) initiate such audit or investigate by not later than 90 days after providing such notification; or

“(II) not later than three days after the end of the 90-day period specified in subclause (I), notify the Officer that such audit or investigation was not initiated.

“(C) PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE.—At the request of the Inspector General, the Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties may provide assistance to the Inspector General on any investigation or audit initiated by the Inspector General based on a referral under subparagraph (A).

“(D) INVESTIGATION BY OFFICER.—The Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties may investigate a matter referred to the Inspector General under subparagraph (A) only if—

“(i) the Inspector General notifies the Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties that the Inspector General does not intend to initiate an audit or investigation relating to that matter; or

“(ii) the Inspector General provides notification under subparagraph (B)(ii)(II) that an audit or investigation was not initiated.

“(d) TRANSPARENCY.—

“(1) COMPLAINTS.—In the case of a complaint made concerning allegations of abuses of civil rights and civil liberties under paragraph (6) of subsection (b), the Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties shall—

“(A) provide to the individual who made the complaint notice of the receipt of such complaint within 30 days of receiving the complaint; and

“(B) inform the complainant of the determination of the Officer regarding the initiation of a review, assessment, or investigation within the Office, a referral to the Inspector General of the Department, or any other action taken.

“(2) INVESTIGATIONS.—In the case of an investigation initiated by the Officer pursuant to paragraph (6) or (7) of subsection (b), upon the conclusion of the investigation, the Officer shall produce a report on the investigation which—

“(A) shall include the findings and recommendations of the Officer;

“(B) a summary of which shall be made publicly available;

“(C) shall not include any personally identifiable information related to any individual involved in such investigation; and

“(D) may include a classified appendix, as the Officer determines appropriate.

“(3) SUBMITTAL TO HEADS OF OPERATIONAL COMPONENTS.—The Officer shall transmit a copy of each report produced under paragraph (2) to the Secretary and to the relevant head of each relevant operational component of the Department.

“(4) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Upon the conclusion of any investigation conducted by the Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties under paragraph (6) or (7) of subsection (b), the Officer shall submit to Congress a report on the investigation, which shall be prepared and submitted without any prior comment or amendment by the Secretary, Deputy Secretary, or any other officer or em-

ployee of the Department, unless the Officer seeks such comment.

“(e) COMPONENT CIVIL RIGHTS AND CIVIL LIBERTIES OFFICER.—The head of each of the operational components of the Department shall designate a career appointee (as such term is defined in section 3132 of title 5, United States Code) from such component as the Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties of that component. The Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties of each such component shall coordinate with and provide information to the Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties of the Department on matters related to civil rights and civil liberties within the components.

“(f) ACCESS TO INFORMATION.—The Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties of the Department—

“(1) shall have access to all records, reports, audits, reviews, documents, papers, recommendations, and other materials available to the Department that relate to programs and operations with respect to the responsibilities of the Officer under subsection (b); and

“(2) may, to the extent the Officer determines necessary, and subject to the approval of the Secretary—

“(A) issue a subpoena to require the production, by any person other than a Federal agency, of all information, documents, reports, answers, records, accounts, papers, and other documentary evidence necessary in the performance of the responsibilities of the Officer under this section; and

“(B) administer to or take from any person an oath, affirmation, or affidavit, whenever necessary in the performance of the responsibilities of the Officer under this section.

“(g) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than March 31 of each year, the Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties of the Department shall submit directly to the President, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the appropriate committees and subcommittees of Congress, a report on the implementation of this section during the year preceding the year during which the report is submitted. Each such report shall include, for the year covered by the report—

“(1) any allegations of abuse described under subsection (b)(6) and any actions by the Department or a component, directorate, or office of the Department that the Officer identifies as responsive to such allegations;

“(2) a list of Department programs and activities for which civil rights and civil liberties impact assessments were conducted, or policy advice, recommendations, or other technical assistance was provided;

“(3) any recommendations issued by the Officer to the Secretary or the head of a component, directorate, or office, together with information on the status of the implementation of such recommendations;

“(4) information on the diversity and equal employment opportunity activities of the Department, including information on complaint management and adjudication of equal employment opportunity complaints and efforts to ensure compliance throughout the Department with equal employment opportunity requirements;

“(5) a description of any efforts to engage with individuals and communities whose civil rights and civil liberties may be affected by activities carried out by the Department, including public meetings; and

“(6) information on total staffing for the Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, including—

“(A) the number of full-time, part-time and contract support personnel; and

“(B) information on the number of employees whose primary responsibilities include

supporting the Officer in carrying out paragraph (9) of subsection (b).”

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The item relating to section 705 in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 705. OFFICER FOR CIVIL RIGHTS AND CIVIL LIBERTIES.”

SEC. 3. COMPTROLLER GENERAL REVIEW.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report on subsection (b)(11) of section 705 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 345), as amended by section 2.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN) and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. HIGGINS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 4713, the Department of Homeland Security Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Authorization Act.

The Department of Homeland Security Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, which I will call CRCL, is the primary office responsible for integrating civil rights and civil liberties protections into DHS policies, programs, and procedures.

Every day, DHS personnel interact with millions of people from across the country and around the world. For this reason, it is imperative that the Department's CRCL officer has the authority to ensure that DHS pursues policies and programs that are in line with constitutionally protected civil rights and civil liberties.

Under current law, the CRCL officer is authorized to assist the leaders throughout the Department in appropriately incorporating civil rights and civil liberties in DHS policies and procedures. However, there have been instances where CRCL was not afforded the opportunity to weigh in on DHS programs and policies that clearly impact individuals' and communities' civil rights and civil liberties.

For example, it has been reported that CRCL was not consulted when the Trump administration instituted the family separation policy at the southern border. It has also been reported that the Office was not consulted prior to the January 2017 travel ban that barred individuals from Muslim-majority countries from entering the United States.

The bill before us today seeks to ensure that CRCL has a seat at the table

when new programs and policies are being considered within DHS.

H.R. 4713, which was introduced by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN), promotes the involvement of CRCL early in the policymaking process and ensures the Office is empowered, when necessary, to prevent DHS from pursuing policies that violate individuals' civil rights and civil liberties.

To strengthen the integration of civil rights and civil liberties across the Department, H.R. 4713 requires the designation of CRCL officers within each DHS component.

Additionally, H.R. 4713 would confer the CRCL officer the same authorities that currently rest with the DHS privacy officer to carry out its responsibilities.

For instance, today, DHS components are not required to provide information to the CRCL officer that may be needed for a civil liberties investigation. Under H.R. 4713, the CRCL officer would have the authority to access all Department records necessary to carry out its work, including investigations.

The CRCL officer would also have the authority, with the support of the DHS Secretary, to subpoena non-Federal entities to acquire information, documents, reports, and other materials necessary to carry out CRCL investigations.

Lastly, the bill would increase transparency and accountability within the Department. Specifically, H.R. 4713 makes CRCL more responsive and accessible to members of the public who file complaints by requiring the Office to provide individuals with notices of receipt within 30 days of a complaint.

The bill also requires CRCL to make publicly available its reports and reviews of Department programs and submit those reports to Congress.

We know that the CRCL does important work and that caseload is growing. This year alone, the Office reviewed DHS policies relating to the humanitarian crisis at the border, disaster assistance, and a Department-wide antiharassment policy, just to name a few items.

Given Congress' strong interest in the work of the Department's CRCL officer, it is troubling that the last annual report that we have received here in Congress was for fiscal year 2017. Increased public reporting will allow us to work together to improve accountability of the Department.

I appreciate that the Committee on Homeland Security came together on a bipartisan basis to support this measure, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of H.R. 4713, the Department of Homeland Security Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Authorization Act.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation will give the Department of Homeland Security Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties more tools to conduct its investigations.

The bill does not significantly broaden the authority of CRCL; it is intended to grant CRCL the authorities necessary to conduct meaningful inquiries into allegations of abuse of civil rights and civil liberties within DHS.

The bill specifically outlines mechanisms to ensure that there is coordination with other entities at DHS who conduct investigations of violations of civil rights. DHS already has numerous officers engaged in investigating such violations, and we want to ensure that the new authority granted to CRCL is not used to engage in duplicative activities or investigations.

H.R. 4713 also grants CRCL access to DHS documents on programs and operations, provides it with subpoena powers and the authority to administer an oath or take an affidavit. These authorities should be exercised only in the rarest of the circumstances and only after approval by the Secretary.

DHS and its components should view cooperation with CRCL as standard operating procedure and provide relevant documents when requested. However, in utilizing the authority provided, CRCL must also respect generally accepted exceptions to document production.

Finally, the bill requires the issuance of a report after an investigation. Although not required, I expect CRCL to seek the guidance of the Secretary and the components whenever possible during an investigation to ensure that it is conducted in a fair and equitable manner.

We have made some changes to the bill at the request of DHS. To the extent that DHS continues to have concerns, I encourage the majority to work with the Department as this bill moves to the Senate to address outstanding issues.

Mr. Speaker, I support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN).

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me the time and for her outstanding service as a member of this august body. I would also like to thank my friend from Louisiana, my home State, for his outstanding presentation as it relates to this piece of legislation.

Seated next to the gentleman from Louisiana is our dear friend, who is co-sponsoring this piece of legislation, Mr. TAYLOR. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. TAYLOR for all that he has done to bring this to fruition. And, of course, we could not do this without saying a word about the chairperson of the full committee, Mr. THOMPSON. I want to thank Mr. THOMPSON for not only bringing this legislation to my attention but, also, allowing it to get to the

floor, such that we might have this opportunity for passage.

I would like to address immediately the concern that my friend raised about this piece of legislation not being perfect, and I confess that it isn't. I do think it is good legislation, but I want to allay any consternation that Members may have.

Mr. Speaker, I have already spoken to staff, and I have agreed that we should be flexible in trying to work to make sure that what we present to the Senate and what we ultimately get from the Senate will be something that we can all agree to. Just as we have been able to bring this to the floor with bipartisan support, I would like to see bicameral support and continue this bipartisan relationship. I think it is an imperative for us if we are going to do this in an effective way.

One thing to talk about very briefly, of course, is the subpoena power. I think this is a thing that some people are afraid might somehow be abused. I am concerned. I believe that this type of authority should be handled with the greatest degree of sensitivity.

Mr. Speaker, we pledge to you to do all that we can to make sure that, as we move forward, that level of sensitivity is something that we embrace in a holistic way so that all parties concerned will ultimately conclude that we have come up with the perfect formula to get this to the President for his signature.

I would like to say this, finally: This piece of legislation is something that I think is sorely needed. What it does is it will confer upon the CRCL officer the same authorities granted to DHS privacy officers. That same level of authority is something that I believe would be of great benefit to the Department and to the people that the Department will embrace by way of their services.

Mr. Speaker, I thank all of my friends and colleagues, and I am going to be as pithy as I can be and simply say "amen" to what has been said.

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. TAYLOR), my friend.

Mr. TAYLOR. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Texas' Ninth District for his work on this piece of legislation.

I rise in support of H.R. 4713, the Department of Homeland Security Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Authorization Act.

Every day millions of Americans interact with officials and representatives of the Department of Homeland Security, most frequently at airports across this country. In fact, the Transportation Security Administration screens approximately 2.2 million passengers every single day. Last year, TSA screened over 813 million individuals.

With more than 240,000 dedicated DHS employees working hard every single day—and I mean every single

day; they do not take a day off, the Department of Homeland Security—they are keeping our Nation safe. While there is no doubt that this is a massive undertaking, we must also work to ensure the civil rights and liberties of every single American are upheld by the Department of Homeland Security.

H.R. 4713, the bill before us today, safeguards the civil rights of Americans by increasing accountability and transparency. Just as the dedicated men and women who work to protect our homeland, ensuring the constitutional rights of all Americans are protected is critically important for us to maintain a free society.

Increasing transparency and accountability is not a partisan issue, and I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 4713.

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, I have no more speakers, and I am prepared to close.

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close. I urge adoption of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I did not also take just a half a second to urge the Department of Homeland Security, in crafting their budget request for next cycle, to provide adequate resources for the CRCL to ensure that the office can do its work.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the rest of my colleagues to join by passing H.R. 4713, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4713, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

INLAND WATERS SECURITY REVIEW ACT

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4402) to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to conduct an inland waters threat analysis, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4402

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Inland Waters Security Review Act”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives;

(B) the Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs of the Senate; and

(C) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

(2) **INLAND WATERS.**—The term “inland waters” has the meaning given such term in section 83.03 of title 33, Code of Federal Regulations.

SEC. 3. INLAND WATERS THREAT ANALYSIS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees an inland waters threat analysis that includes an identification and description of the following:

(1) Current and potential terrorism and criminal threats posed by individuals and groups seeking to—

(A) enter the United States through inland waters; or

(B) exploit security vulnerabilities on inland waters.

(2) Security challenges at United States inland waters ports regarding—

(A) terrorism and instruments of terror entering the United States; and

(B) criminal activity, as measured by the total flow of illegal goods and illicit drugs, related to the inland waters.

(3) Security mitigation efforts with respect to the inland waters to—

(A) prevent terrorists and instruments of terror from entering the United States; and

(B) reduce criminal activity related to the inland waters.

(4) Vulnerabilities related to cooperation between State, local, Tribal, and territorial law enforcement, or international agreements, that hinder effective security, counterterrorism, anti-trafficking efforts, and the flow of legitimate trade with respect to inland waters.

(5) Metrics and performance measures used by the Department of Homeland Security to evaluate inland waters security, as appropriate.

(b) **ANALYSIS REQUIREMENTS.**—In preparing the threat analysis required under subsection (a), the Secretary of Homeland Security shall consider and examine the following:

(1) Technology needs and challenges.

(2) Personnel needs and challenges.

(3) The roles of State, local, Tribal, and territorial law enforcement, as well as private sector partners and the public, relating to inland waters security.

(4) The need for cooperation among Federal, State, local, Tribal, territorial, and international partner law enforcement, as well as private sector partners and the public, relating to inland waters security.

(5) The challenges posed by geography with respect to inland waters security.

(c) **CLASSIFIED THREAT ANALYSIS.**—To the extent possible, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit the threat analysis required under subsection (a) in unclassified form. The Secretary may submit a portion of the threat analysis in classified form if the Secretary determines that such is appropriate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN) and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. HIGGINS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to in-

clude extraneous material on this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4402, the Inland Waters Security Review Act. This one is very close to my heart.

Maritime security is an integral part of our homeland security; however, most terrorism assessments related to maritime security have focused on the risks of terrorism on the high seas or on coastal areas.

In the United States, we have massive inland water systems that present unique security challenges. In Michigan, for instance, from where I hail, we have 3,288 miles of coastline, second only to Alaska—take that, California and Florida—so inland waters are a big deal to us. Maritime security is not just for our oceans but also for our Great Lakes, which represent a huge part of our U.S.-Canada border.

As a Michigander who came to Congress to protect the Great Lakes, I am pleased to support this legislation, which requires the Department of Homeland Security to take a good, hard look at security threats to these vital waterways.

Specifically, H.R. 4402 would require DHS to submit an analysis of the current and potential terrorism and criminal threats, as well as security challenges, with respect to our Nation's inland waters.

In producing this assessment, DHS must consider technology, personnel, law enforcement cooperation, public-private partnerships, and challenges posed by geography. This assessment will provide Congress and the public with vital information regarding the threats facing our inland waters.

I am pleased to be an original cosponsor of H.R. 4402, a bipartisan bill that was reported out of committee by unanimous consent. I thank my colleague on the Homeland Security committee, Mrs. LESKO, for her leadership on this bill.

With that, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4402, the Inland Waters Security Review Act sponsored by my friend and colleague, the ranking member of the Transportation and Maritime Security Subcommittee, Representative DEBBIE LESKO.

H.R. 4402 will improve the security awareness of the Department of Homeland Security and the United States Coast Guard for threats and vulnerabilities on America's inland water systems. These important arteries for commerce face unique challenges related to illegal drugs and smuggling. It

is important that the Coast Guard continues to work diligently with relevant stakeholders to address these challenges.

This legislation would also ensure that Federal authorities are working in close partnership with their State, local, Tribal, territorial, and private sector partners to identify and address security issues related to America's inland waters.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative LESKO for her leadership on this bipartisan legislation. I urge my colleagues to support the bill; I urge adoption of the bill; and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, America is home to over 3 million miles of lakes, rivers, and streams, including more than 25,000 miles of navigable waters.

It is critically important that we have a complete picture of the security and criminal threats that inland waters face. H.R. 4402 would do just that.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Arizona for introducing this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4402.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

WEATHERIZING INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE NORTH AND TERRORISM EMERGENCY READINESS ACT OF 2019

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3669) to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to conduct a collective response to a terrorism exercise that includes the management of cascading effects on critical infrastructure during times of extreme cold weather, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3669

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Weatherizing Infrastructure in the North and Terrorism Emergency Readiness Act of 2019".

SEC. 2. EXERCISE ON TERRORIST ATTACK DURING EXTREME COLD.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In addition to, or as part of exercise programs currently carried out by the Department of Homeland Security, to enhance domestic preparedness for terrorism, promote the dissemination of homeland security information, and test the homeland security posture of the United States, the Secretary of Homeland Security, acting through appropriate offices and components of the Department, shall develop and

conduct a collective response to terrorism exercise that includes management of cascading effects on critical infrastructure (as such term is defined in section 1016(e) of Public Law 107-56 (42 U.S.C. 5195c(e))), such as an extreme cold weather event caused by a polar vortex.

(b) EXERCISE REQUIREMENTS.—The exercise required under subsection (a) shall include a scenario involving the following:

(1) An extreme cold weather event, such as an event caused by a polar vortex, with respect to access to critical services.

(2) Any cascading effects on critical infrastructure.

(3) How the effects of a successful terrorist attack against critical infrastructure could be mitigated by emergency managers, State officials, and appropriate private sector and community stakeholders.

(4) How the resilience of communities that could be impacted by such an attack could be bolstered.

(5) Coordination with appropriate Federal departments and agencies, and State, local, Tribal, and territorial agencies.

(6) Coordination with appropriate private sector and community stakeholders.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the completion of the exercise required under subsection (a), the Secretary of Homeland Security shall, consistent with the protection of classified information, submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate an after-action report presenting the initial findings of such exercise, any immediate and longer-term plans for incorporating lessons learned into future operations of the Department of Homeland Security, and any proposed legislative changes informed by such exercise.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN) and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. HIGGINS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan.

□ 1700

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of my own bill, H.R. 3669, the Weatherizing Infrastructure in the North and Terrorism Emergency Readiness Act of 2019 or, as we like to call it, the WINTER Act.

Terrorism is a persistent threat to the United States. We need to be prepared to confront terrorism in all situations, even during extreme weather events. As climate change continues to change weather patterns, extreme winter storms will become more common.

The effects of climate change produce more snowfall during winter storms as a warmer planet evaporates more water into the atmosphere, and that moisture means heavier snowfall and worse storms.

Given what we know, we must make sure we are prepared to act if a terrorist attack were to take place during an extreme cold event. This is why I introduced H.R. 3669, the WINTER Act.

In recent years, the Nation has experienced several extreme cold weather events, such as the polar vortex during the winter of 2019. This one was very specific and personal to the State of Michigan.

Last winter, in my State, temperatures reached as low as negative 43 degrees Fahrenheit during the polar vortex. During that time we had a fire, an accidental fire at one of our gas facilities, causing it to shut down, and resulting in a gas shortage in our State. As a result, our Governor had to go on television and ask all Michiganders to turn down their thermostats below 65 degrees to ensure that we didn't lose power across the State and were able to keep our warming stations, our hospitals, our homeless shelters open.

The dangers that result from cold weather aren't unique to Michigan. Across the U.S., over 6,000 people died from hypothermia or exposure to cold between 2006 and 2010, equating to over 1,000 deaths per year.

During these extreme cold weather events, infrastructure and emergency services are critical, and any disruption poses a serious threat to the health and safety of Americans in the affected area.

Last winter's events made me realize that if we had a critical infrastructure attack in the middle of winter, particularly in places in the northern half of the country, we would be extremely vulnerable. If terrorists choose to take advantage of any of these circumstances to amplify the deadly impacts of an attack, our elderly, our families, and our first responders could be put in the most danger.

This bipartisan bill directs the Department of Homeland Security to develop and conduct a terrorism training exercise that addresses the effects of a successful terrorist attack on critical infrastructure during extreme cold weather.

This exercise will help determine the best way for emergency managers, State and local officials, and community stakeholders to mitigate the impacts of such an attack and help keep people safe.

Mr. Speaker, this is an important bill. I urge my colleagues to support it, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of H.R. 3669, the Weatherizing Infrastructure in the North and Terrorism Emergency Readiness Act—the WINTER Act—of 2019.

This legislation seeks to better position the United States government and relevant State, local, and private sector agencies to be able to respond to a terrorist attack during an extreme cold weather event.

An extreme weather event, such as a polar vortex, has the potential to severely impact our daily lives, damage

our critical infrastructure, and leave America incredibly vulnerable to terrorist attack.

H.R. 3669 requires the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop and conduct an exercise to respond to terrorism during extreme weather events.

The bill also requires the Secretary to produce an after-action report to Congress, presenting the findings of the exercise and plans for quickly incorporating those lessons learned for future operations of the Department.

As the threat of terrorism continues to evolve, we must be prepared to respond to any scenario.

I thank the gentlewoman from Michigan for her leadership on this bill. I urge all Members to join me in supporting the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, I have no more speakers, and I am prepared to close after the gentleman from Louisiana closes.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I would like the Congresswoman to be aware that I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

I urge adoption of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

The passage of the WINTER Act would ensure that the Department of Homeland Security is doing its part to improve preparedness and response to terrorism in the event of extreme cold.

I ask my colleagues to support H.R. 3669; winter is coming; and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3669.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ESTHER MARTINEZ NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGES PROGRAMS REAUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 256) to amend the Native American Programs Act of 1974 to provide flexibility and reauthorization to ensure the survival and continuing vitality of Native American languages.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 256

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Esther Martinez Native American Languages Programs Reauthorization Act”.

SEC. 2. NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGES GRANT PROGRAM.

Section 803C of the Native American Programs Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 2991b-3) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(7)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)(i), by striking “10” and inserting “5”; and

(B) in subparagraph (B)(i), by striking “15” and inserting “10”; and

(2) in subsection (e)(2)—

(A) by striking “or 3-year basis” and inserting “3-year, 4-year, or 5-year basis”; and

(B) by inserting “, 4-year, or 5-year” after “on a 3-year”.

SEC. 3. REAUTHORIZATION OF NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGES PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 816(e) of the Native American Programs Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 2992d(e)) is amended by striking “such sums” and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting “\$13,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024.”.

(b) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—Section 816 of the Native American Programs Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 2992d) is amended in subsections (a) and (b) by striking “subsection (e)” each place it appears and inserting “subsection (d)”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) and the gentleman from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support S. 256, the Esther Martinez Native American Languages Programs Reauthorization Act.

The United States has a trust responsibility to support indigenous peoples in this country. The survival of indigenous peoples' languages is fundamental to the success of Native communities and the survival of traditional Native cultures.

The history of the United States tells us about the deliberate efforts to eliminate indigenous peoples' languages and cultures through forced assimilation, boarding school forced attendance, treaties that have not been honored, and promises not kept.

According to UNESCO, 74 Native languages stand to disappear within the next decade. Scholars project that only 20 Native languages will be spoken by the year 2050. The linguistic and cultural genocide is real and demands action.

The Esther Martinez language program has been a tool that was created to address this stark reality. This language program is named in honor of a New Mexico Tewa teacher and storyteller, Esther Martinez, who is known and honored for her dedication and efforts in revitalizing her people's language.

The Esther Martinez Initiative funds immersion programs that are success-

ful in preserving and revitalizing Native languages, both to indigenous communities, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian students.

Today, grants provided under Esther Martinez' program have empowered Native communities to establish language immersion programs that are successfully reviving Native languages and improving Native economies.

This grant has been used to develop curriculums rooted in Native language based on traditional values and beliefs in subject areas that obviously include language, mathematics, science, and social studies.

Esther Martinez grants also support children's books in Native languages, the development of language assessment tools, and the intergenerational programs to support regular use of Native language with children at home.

Importantly, they also provide funding to train Native language teachers to use the language immersion curriculum developed by the Tribe and/or school.

The powerful link between language and identity for Native people is essential in the development of successful students and communities. These language immersion programs have proven to be the best model for developing fluent speakers and successful students.

S. 256 reauthorizes the Esther Martinez program for \$13 million annually, increases the maximum duration of the grant, and reduces the number of program enrollees needed to qualify for a grant.

The survival of Native languages is fundamental to the success of Native communities and the survival of traditional Native cultures.

I would like to thank my colleagues Representative LUJÁN and Senator UDALL for leading the effort, and for the support of Representative HAALAND.

I urge my colleagues to support S. 256, the Esther Martinez Native American Languages Programs Reauthorization Act.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Greetings, my relative, in Lakota is “How mitakuye.”

I am honored to join the chairman, my colleague from Arizona, to usher this important legislation through the House after its passage through the Senate.

Now, South Dakota and Arizona both have rich Native American history and culture, and we are here tonight to celebrate, to cherish, and, yes, to sustain that culture.

The Esther Martinez Native American Languages Programs Reauthorization Act was introduced in 2006 by my friend Heather Wilson, who was a Congresswoman from New Mexico before she moved to South Dakota. This reauthorization of her bill will empower

Native American Tribes to continue teaching languages like Lakota and Dakota to future generations.

Let there be no mistake. There is pressing need for this work. Fewer than 1 percent of Lakota and Dakota Native Americans are fluent in either of those languages. That means there are just 2,000 Lakota and Dakota fluent speakers in the world. We are losing those speakers too quickly because of old age, and their ranks have declined by 65 percent in the last 15 years.

Unfortunately, it is not just Lakota and Dakota that are threatened. There are 175 Native languages spoken in this country today, and there are estimates that, 30 years from now, fewer than 20 will be spoken.

Why does this matter? Why do we care? Why are we gathered here tonight for such a just cause?

It is because, Mr. Speaker, as we all know, language is the lifeblood of culture. Language opens a doorway for all of us, a doorway into understanding of peoples, into understanding their past, and maybe, most interestingly, understanding their future. That is powerful insight.

Now, for example, Lakota-speaking Native Americans may say, “mitakuye oyasin,” which means, we are all related. But this, to me, is the most fascinating part about this, Mr. Speaker, you wouldn’t just say that when you are around people with whom you are related. You would say that in a broader group of people, to demonstrate an interconnectedness, part of a larger family, that we have similar values and dreams and fears; there is a human condition.

Now, English doesn’t quite have a phrase like that. The fact that Lakota does tells us a lot about the Lakota people.

This program, these dollars, are having an impact in Indian Country. For years, Lakota was, along with dozens of other Native languages, designated as “severely threatened.” Its status was recently changed to a “reawakening language.”

That is an acknowledgment that projects funded by this program, projects that are working today in communities in South Dakota like Eagle Butte and Porcupine, are making a difference.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would say thank you, “pilamaye yelo.”

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN), a leader in this effort on this legislation.

□ 1715

Mr. LUJÁN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Esther Martinez Native American Languages Programs Reauthorization Act.

With the passage of this legislation, Congress has made monumental progress to affirm Native communities honoring their heritage by speaking

the languages gifted to them by their creators.

Today, we recognize the only existing Federal Native language education grant programs. These programs give our first Americans crucial support to protect their languages from extinction.

Today is a historic moment, a blessing, and I want to offer thanks to the people who made this achievement possible.

We owe our deepest gratitude to Esther Martinez of Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo, who ensured Tewa is spoken across New Mexico. Her passion for her culture and tradition is what brought us together today.

To the educators who work every day to ensure Native languages are here for future generations, thank you.

I thank my colleague Senator TOM UDALL, who has made reauthorization of these programs a top priority for more than a decade and successfully secured passage of the legislation in the U.S. Senate.

I would also like to recognize Congressman GRIJALVA, Mr. Speaker, for his leadership on behalf of Tribes and Native peoples.

I am deeply grateful for my colleagues Congresswomen HAALAND and TORRES SMALL, Chairmen YOUNG and COLE, Congresswomen MCCOLLUM and GABBARD, and Chairman SCOTT for joining together to ensure this legislation had its day on the House floor.

I thank and recognize all the Pueblo, Apache, and Navajo leaders from New Mexico, including those in the gallery today.

With the permission of her family, I am honored to celebrate the legacy that Esther Martinez and her Pueblo have shared with the world.

New Mexico boasts a rich history and diversity that includes 23 Native Nations and seven indigenous language groups found nowhere else on Earth. Esther Martinez, a master educator and linguist, dedicated her life to the Tewa language, which today is spoken across six northern Pueblos in my district and in Hopi-Tewa in Arizona.

As a child whose first language was Tewa, Mrs. Martinez attended a government-run Indian boarding school where nearly everything that made her a Pueblo woman was banned, including her language.

Her experience is not unique. Generations of Native families had their children torn from their arms, bound for schools that forced English and Western education on Native students.

Despite living through a period of overt racism with Federal policies aimed at exterminating Native culture, Mrs. Martinez defied the odds by returning to Ohkay Owingeh. She raised her children and family to speak the Tewa dialect. Esther went on to teach many more as a linguist, a schoolteacher, and the director of bilingual education for her Pueblo.

Her legacy lives on in the sounds of Tewa being spoken in her community.

Her son Tony and daughters Marie and Josephine are raising their children and grandchildren with Tewa in their homes. Her daughter Mercedes is a regular attendee at adult language classes taught by one of Esther Martinez’ proteges.

Esther Martinez’ grandson, former Lieutenant Governor Matthew Martinez, a doctor of American studies and American Indian studies, advances his culture at Santa Fe’s Museum of Indian Arts and Culture. He is also teaching Tewa to his youngest son.

Today, we pass this legislation knowing that it will help Native communities protect their languages for generations to come. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from referencing occupants of the gallery.

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, for 46 years, the 120,000 Alaskan Natives in our country have had a champion working for them, fighting for them, advocating for them. He is the dean of this House and the former chairman of the Indian Affairs Subcommittee.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG.)

(Mr. YOUNG asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YOUNG. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. Mr. JOHNSON has done a great job. That was a great presentation. I am very proud of him.

Each person who has spoken on this legislation really put it in context about the Esther Martinez program started in 2006. I happened to be a cosponsor of that bill. I watched it pass and become a reality, and it has worked.

What we are doing is reauthorizing a program that allows a culture to be retained through languages. In Alaska, we have 20 Native languages and 40-some dialects.

As the gentleman said, we lost that for a long period of time. Language is what keeps the culture together. It is important for the past, important for the present, and important for the future.

The University of Alaska has a program, the Alaska Native Language Center, which has worked very well since the 1970s. We were well ahead with this program, and we want to continue it.

We have an innovative Alaska Native Cultural Charter School in Anchorage that teaches Yupik to all the students so there is an exchange, not just Native, but between other races, so they understand the language.

I believe this is one of the best programs that we are able to achieve. The funding probably is still inadequate, but it is a continuation of good work by this Congress.

I thank each one of you who has been participating in this, especially Representative LUJÁN. I am a little bit

concerned, if I may. I don't want to speak about the other body, but we know who it is. They have taken Mr. LUJAN's bill and sort of put their name on it, but we will forgive them because we will get it done.

This is good legislation. I also would like to thank Representative PRICE, who co-chairs the American Languages Caucus with me.

Again, congratulations. This is good legislation. The chairman has done well, and let's continue to act.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. MCCOLLUM).

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 256, the Esther Martinez Native American Languages Programs Reauthorization Act.

There are many critical needs in Indian Country, and the Federal Government has an obligation to fulfill our trust and Tribal responsibilities. This commitment includes reauthorizing the Esther Martinez Immersion grants so that Congress ensures Indian students have the opportunity to study, learn, and speak their Tribal languages.

The National Congress of American Indians says it best: A language "encompasses and expresses a worldview shaped by centuries, in some cases tens of thousands of years of experience, knowledge, practices, spiritual beliefs, and relationships between a people, its neighbors, and its environment, which cannot be replicated in any other tongue."

Language is paramount to one's identity. The gift of language allows a person to carry their culture from their ancestors to the present and on to the next generation to come.

Esther Martinez grants have empowered Tribes to establish immersion programs, making it possible for more Tribal communities to maintain their Native languages and pass along centuries-old cultural heritage.

These grants will benefit not only Native American Tribal Nations across the country but also Native Hawaiians, Native Alaskans, and Pacific Islander communities, giving them the ability to protect and rejuvenate indigenous languages.

Without urgent action to reauthorize these grants, too many communities risk losing the Native languages of their ancestors.

As chair emeritus of the Native American Caucus, I have worked to increase funding for Esther Martinez programs, and I will continue to make Native languages and their preservation and education a priority.

Mr. Speaker, as the 116th Congress moves forward, we must prioritize our Federal trust and treaty obligations. We must do so in a way that respects Native culture and strengthens Native communities. Reauthorizing the Esther Martinez Native American Language Preservation Act brings us one step closer to this goal.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation,

and in the words of the Ojibwe, "miigwech."

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

We are not here in this body to reauthorize feel-good programs. We are gathered here tonight not to reauthorize a feel-good program but to authorize a program that works, that makes a difference.

The evidence is clear. Students who participate in these programs, they do learn language skills. They also are more likely to graduate high school. They are more likely to have high academic achievement. They are more likely to be successful in their communities. That is what the data tells us. We cannot let up now.

These programs are working in a variety of States and a variety of communities. If we want a robust and healthy Native American culture in this country, we need to have a healthy and robust Native American language environment in this country. The Esther Martinez Native American Language Preservation Act is important, a critical component of that framework, of that environment.

I ask my colleagues, I beseech them tonight, to reauthorize this program that is doing so much good throughout our country. I urge a "yes" vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

My Speaker, I thank my colleagues across the aisle and, in particular, Mr. YOUNG, my friend from the committee.

When I first came to Congress, this is one of the first bills that he sponsored. I was very proud to vote for it then, and I encourage all of my colleagues today to be very proud to vote for it now.

The reauthorization is \$13 million, and it is an amount of money that goes very far in Indian Country, an amount of money that many could argue should be more, but the point today is to reauthorize.

By reauthorization and seed money, which is so important to the Native youth and children, I think we make a statement as a Congress that we, too, join in reaffirming the revitalization, the preservation of both language and culture among the first Americans in this country. We say to them that what they bring as persons, as a Tribe, as a people is vital, too, and enriches the fabric of this Nation of ours.

I am proud to be here. I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill. It is a good piece of legislation that does good work and will continue to do good work. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 256.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 today.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 27 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1831

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PETERS) at 6 o'clock and 31 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 729, TRIBAL COASTAL RESILIENCY ACT

Mr. MORELLE, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 116-330) on the resolution (H. Res. 748) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 729) to amend the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 to authorize grants to Indian Tribes to further achievement of Tribal coastal zone objectives, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed. Votes will be taken in the following order:

Motions to suspend the rules and pass:

H.R. 4761, and

H.R. 4739; and

Agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, if ordered.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

DHS OPIOID DETECTION RESILIENCE ACT OF 2019

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4761) to ensure U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers, agents, and other personnel have adequate synthetic opioid detection equipment, that the Department of Homeland Security has a process to update synthetic opioid detection capability, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms.

CLARKE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 393, nays 1, not voting 36, as follows:

[Roll No. 655]

YEAS—393

Abraham	Dean	Johnson (OH)
Adams	DeFazio	Johnson (SD)
Aguilar	DeGette	Johnson (TX)
Allen	DeLauro	Jordan
Allred	DelBene	Joyce (OH)
Amodei	Delgado	Joyce (PA)
Armstrong	Demings	Kaptur
Arrington	DeSaulnier	Katko
Axne	DesJarlais	Keller
Babin	Deutch	Kelly (IL)
Bacon	Diaz-Balart	Kelly (MS)
Baird	Dingell	Kelly (PA)
Balderson	Doggett	Khanna
Banks	Doyle, Michael	Kildee
Barr	F.	Kilmer
Barragán	Duncan	Kim
Bass	Dunn	King (IA)
Beatty	Engel	Kinzinger
Bera	Escobar	Kirkpatrick
Bergman	Eshoo	Krishnamoorthi
Beyer	Españillat	Kuster (NH)
Biggs	Estes	Kustoff (TN)
Bilirakis	Evans	LaHood
Bishop (GA)	Ferguson	Lamb
Bishop (NC)	Finkenauer	Langevin
Bishop (UT)	Fitzpatrick	Larsen (WA)
Blumenauer	Fleischmann	Larson (CT)
Blunt Rochester	Fletcher	Latta
Bonamici	Flores	Lawrence
Bost	Fortenberry	Lee (CA)
Boyle, Brendan	Foster	Lee (NV)
F.	Foxx (NC)	Lesko
Brady	Frankel	Levin (CA)
Brindisi	Fudge	Levin (MI)
Brooks (AL)	Fulcher	Lewis
Brown (MD)	Gaetz	Lipinski
Brownley (CA)	Gallagher	Lofgren
Buchanan	Gallego	Long
Buck	Garamendi	Loudermilk
Bucshon	Garcia (IL)	Lowenthal
Budd	Garcia (TX)	Lowe
Burchett	Gianforte	Lucas
Burgess	Gibbs	Luján
Bustos	Gohmert	Luria
Butterfield	Golden	Malinowski
Byrne	Gomez	Maloney
Calvert	Gonzalez (OH)	Carolyn B.
Carbajal	Gonzalez (TX)	Maloney, Sean
Cárdenas	Gosar	Marshall
Carson (IN)	Gottheimer	Massie
Carter (GA)	Granger	Mast
Cartwright	Graves (GA)	Matsui
Case	Graves (LA)	McAdams
Casten (IL)	Graves (MO)	McBath
Castor (FL)	Green (TN)	McCarthy
Castro (TX)	Green, Al (TX)	McCaul
Chabot	Griffith	McClintock
Cheney	Grijalva	McCollum
Chu, Judy	Grothman	McGovern
Cicilline	Guest	McHenry
Cisneros	Guthrie	McKinley
Clark (MA)	Haaland	Meadows
Clarke (NY)	Hagedorn	Meuser
Clay	Harder (CA)	Miller
Cleaver	Harris	Mitchell
Cline	Hastings	Moolenaar
Cloud	Hayes	Mooney (WV)
Cohen	Heck	Moore
Cole	Hern, Kevin	Morelle
Collins (GA)	Herrera Beutler	Moulton
Comer	Hice (GA)	Mucarsel-Powell
Conaway	Higgins (LA)	Mullin
Connolly	Higgins (NY)	Murphy (FL)
Cook	Hill (AR)	Murphy (NC)
Cooper	Himes	Nadler
Correa	Holding	Napolitano
Costa	Hollingsworth	Neal
Courtney	Horn, Kendra S.	Neguse
Cox (CA)	Horsford	Newhouse
Craig	Houlihan	Norcross
Crenshaw	Hoyer	Norman
Crist	Hudson	Nunes
Crow	Huffman	O'Halleran
Cuellar	Huizenga	Ocasio-Cortez
Cunningham	Hurd (TX)	Olson
Curtis	Jackson Lee	Omar
Davids (KS)	Jayapal	Pallone
Davidson (OH)	Jeffries	Palmer
Davis (CA)	Johnson (GA)	Panetta
Davis, Rodney	Johnson (LA)	Pappas

Pascarell	Schneider	Tonko
Payne	Schrader	Torres (CA)
Pence	Schrier	Torres Small
Perlmutter	Schweikert	(NM)
Perry	Scott (VA)	Trahan
Peters	Scott, Austin	Trone
Peterson	Scott, David	Turner
Phillips	Sensenbrenner	Underwood
Pingree	Sewell (AL)	Upton
Pocan	Shalala	Van Drew
Porter	Sherman	Vargas
Posey	Sherrill	Veasey
Pressley	Shimkus	Vela
Price (NC)	Simpson	Velázquez
Quigley	Sires	Visclosky
Raskin	Slotkin	Wagner
Ratcliffe	Smith (MO)	Walberg
Reed	Smith (NE)	Walden
Reschenthaler	Smith (NJ)	Walker
Rice (NY)	Smith (WA)	Walorski
Rice (SC)	Smucker	Waltz
Richmond	Spanberger	Wasserman
Riggleman	Spano	Schultz
Roby	Speier	Waters
Rodgers (WA)	Stanton	Watkins
Roe, David P.	Stauber	Watson Coleman
Rogers (AL)	Stefanik	Weber (TX)
Rogers (KY)	Steil	Webster (FL)
Rose (NY)	Steube	Welch
Rose, John W.	Stevens	Westrup
Rouda	Stivers	Westerman
Rouzer	Suozzi	Wexton
Roy	Swailwell (CA)	Wild
Roybal-Allard	Takano	Williams
Ruiz	Taylor	Wilson (SC)
Ruppersberger	Thompson (CA)	Wittman
Ryan	Thompson (MS)	Womack
Sánchez	Thompson (PA)	Woodall
Sarbanes	Thornberry	Wright
Scalise	Timmons	Yarmuth
Scanlon	Tipton	Young
Schakowsky	Titus	Zeldin
Schiff	Tlaib	

NAYS—1

Amash

NOT VOTING—36

Aderholt	Kennedy	McNerney
Brooks (IN)	Kind	Meeks
Carter (TX)	King (NY)	Meng
Clyburn	LaMalfa	Palazzo
Crawford	Lamborn	Rooney (FL)
Davis, Danny K.	Lawson (FL)	Rush
Emmer	Lieu, Ted	Rutherford
Gabbard	Loeback	Serrano
Gooden	Luetkemeyer	Soto
Hartzler	Lynch	Stewart
Hunter	Marchant	Wilson (FL)
Keating	McEachin	Yoho

□ 1900

Mr. ARRINGTON changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SYNTHETIC OPIOID EXPOSURE PREVENTION AND TRAINING ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4739) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to protect U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers, agents, other personnel, and canines against potential synthetic opioid exposure, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms.

CLARKE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 393, nays 0, not voting 37, as follows:

[Roll No. 656]

YEAS—393

Abraham	Davidson (OH)	Hurd (TX)
Adams	Davis (CA)	Jackson Lee
Aguilar	Davis, Rodney	Jayapal
Allen	Dean	Jeffries
Allred	DeFazio	Johnson (GA)
Amash	DeGette	Johnson (LA)
Amodei	DeLauro	Johnson (OH)
Armstrong	DelBene	Johnson (SD)
Arrington	Delgado	Johnson (TX)
Axne	Demings	Jordan
Babin	DeSaulnier	Joyce (OH)
Bacon	DesJarlais	Joyce (PA)
Baird	Deutch	Kaptur
Balderson	Diaz-Balart	Katko
Banks	Dingell	Keller
Barr	Doggett	Kelly (IL)
Barragán	Doyle, Michael	Kelly (MS)
Bass	F.	Kelly (PA)
Beatty	Duncan	Khanna
Bera	Dunn	Kildee
Bergman	Emmer	Kilmer
Beyer	Engel	Kim
Biggs	Escobar	King (IA)
Bilirakis	Eshoo	Kinzing
Bishop (GA)	Españillat	Kirkpatrick
Bishop (NC)	Estes	Krishnamoorthi
Bishop (UT)	Evans	Kuster (NH)
Blumenauer	Ferguson	Kustoff (TN)
Blunt Rochester	Finkenauer	LaHood
Bonamici	Fitzpatrick	Lamb
Bost	Fleischmann	Langevin
Boyle, Brendan	Fletcher	Larsen (WA)
F.	Flores	Larson (CT)
Brady	Fortenberry	Latta
Brindisi	Foster	Lawrence
Brooks (AL)	Foxx (NC)	Lee (CA)
Brown (MD)	Frankel	Lee (NV)
Brownley (CA)	Fudge	Lesko
Buchanan	Fulcher	Levin (CA)
Buck	Gaetz	Levin (MI)
Bucshon	Gallagher	Lewis
Budd	Gallego	Lipinski
Burchett	Garamendi	Lofgren
Burgess	Garcia (IL)	Long
Bustos	Garcia (TX)	Loudermilk
Butterfield	Gianforte	Lowenthal
Byrne	Gibbs	Lowe
Calvert	Gohmert	Lucas
Carbajal	Golden	Luján
Cárdenas	Gomez	Luria
Carson (IN)	Gonzalez (OH)	Malinowski
Carter (GA)	Gonzalez (TX)	Maloney
Cartwright	Gosar	Carolyn B.
Case	Gottheimer	Maloney, Sean
Casten (IL)	Granger	Marshall
Castor (FL)	Graves (GA)	Massie
Castro (TX)	Graves (LA)	Mast
Chabot	Graves (MO)	Matsui
Cheney	Green (TN)	McAdams
Chu, Judy	Green, Al (TX)	McBath
Cicilline	Griffith	McCarthy
Cisneros	Grijalva	McCaul
Clark (MA)	Grothman	McClintock
Clarke (NY)	Guest	McCollum
Clay	Guthrie	McGovern
Cleaver	Haaland	McHenry
Cline	Hagedorn	McKinley
Cloud	Harder (CA)	Meuser
Cohen	Harris	Miller
Cole	Hastings	Mitchell
Collins (GA)	Hayes	Moolenaar
Comer	Heck	Mooney (WV)
Conaway	Hern, Kevin	Moore
Connolly	Herrera Beutler	Morelle
Cook	Hice (GA)	Moulton
Cooper	Higgins (LA)	Mucarsel-Powell
Correa	Higgins (NY)	Mullin
Costa	Hill (AR)	Murphy (FL)
Courtney	Himes	Murphy (NC)
Cox (CA)	Holding	Nadler
Craig	Hollingsworth	Napolitano
Crenshaw	Horn, Kendra S.	Neal
Crist	Horsford	Neguse
Crow	Houlihan	Newhouse
Cuellar	Hoyer	Norcross
Cunningham	Hudson	Norman
Curtis	Huffman	Nunes
Davids (KS)	Huizenga	O'Halleran

Ocasio-Cortez	Sarbanes	Tipton
Olson	Scalise	Titus
Omar	Scanlon	Tlaib
Pallone	Schakowsky	Tonko
Palmer	Schiff	Torres Small
Panetta	Schneider	(NM)
Pappas	Schrader	Trahan
Pascarell	Schrier	Trone
Payne	Schweikert	Turner
Pence	Scott (VA)	Underwood
Perlmutter	Scott, Austin	Upton
Perry	Scott, David	Van Drew
Peters	Sensenbrenner	Vargas
Peterson	Sewell (AL)	Veasey
Phillips	Shalala	Vela
Pingree	Sherman	Velázquez
Pocan	Sherrill	Visclosky
Porter	Shimkus	Wagner
Posey	Simpson	Walberg
Pressley	Sires	Walden
Price (NC)	Slotkin	Walker
Quigley	Smith (MO)	Walorski
Raskin	Smith (NE)	Waltz
Ratcliffe	Smith (NJ)	Wasserman
Reed	Smith (WA)	Schultz
Reschenthaler	Smucker	Waters
Rice (NY)	Spanberger	Watkins
Rice (SC)	Spano	Watson Coleman
Richmond	Speier	Weber (TX)
Riggleman	Stanton	Webster (FL)
Roby	Stauber	Welch
Rodgers (WA)	Stefanik	Wenstrup
Roe, David P.	Stell	Westerman
Rogers (AL)	Steube	Wexton
Rogers (KY)	Stevens	Wild
Rose (NY)	Stivers	Williams
Rose, John W.	Suozzi	Wilson (SC)
Rouda	Swalwell (CA)	Wittman
Rouzer	Takano	Womack
Roy	Taylor	Woodall
Roybal-Allard	Thompson (CA)	Wright
Ruiz	Thompson (MS)	Yarmuth
Ruppersberger	Thompson (PA)	Young
Ryan	Thornberry	Zeldin
Sánchez	Timmons	

NOT VOTING—37

Aderholt	King (NY)	Meng
Brooks (IN)	LaMalfa	Palazzo
Carter (TX)	Lamborn	Rooney (FL)
Clyburn	Lawson (FL)	Rush
Crawford	Lieu, Ted	Rutherford
Davis, Danny K.	Loebach	Serrano
Gabbard	Luetkemeyer	Soto
Gooden	Lynch	Stewart
Hartzler	Marchant	Torres (CA)
Hunter	McEachin	Wilson (FL)
Keating	McNerney	Yoho
Kennedy	Meadows	
Kind	Meeks	

□ 1909

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the question on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, which the Chair will put de novo.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

□ 1915

MOMENT OF SILENCE HONORING THE LIVES AND MEMORY OF THREE BRAVE MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARDSMEN

(Mr. EMMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. EMMER. Madam Speaker, on December 5, Minnesotans learned of the disappearance of a Minnesota National Guard UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter carrying three National Guardsmen during a maintenance test flight.

Unfortunately, this fateful flight, which originated from St. Cloud, Minnesota, saw the lives of Chief Warrant Officer 2 James A. Rogers, Jr., Chief Warrant Officer 2 Charles P. Nord, and Sergeant Kort M. Plantenberg all tragically lost that day.

Today my colleagues and I join together to honor the memories of these brave Minnesotans and to send our deepest sympathies to their families and loved ones.

Whether deployed overseas or training here at home, members of our Armed Forces routinely put their lives at risk to ensure the safety and security of our Nation.

We pray these families are able to find some peace and comfort during this tragic time and that they know that their fellow Minnesotans and their Nation mourn with them.

We are eternally grateful for their loved ones' sacrifice and service to our great State of Minnesota and to the Nation. Their memories and legacies will never be forgotten.

In honor of James A. Rogers, Jr., Charles P. Nord, and Kort M. Plantenberg, I ask that all Members and guests in the gallery rise for a moment of silence to honor these heroes.

HONORING QUILLA TALMADGE

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor East Orange City Councilwoman Quilla Talmadge. Councilwoman Talmadge has served the citizens of East Orange with distinction for 30 years.

Her political career started as president of her third ward neighborhood. It continued with her active leadership as a member of her local Parent Teacher Association, local NAACP, and the National Council of Negro Women, among many others.

She has won numerous awards for her community and church involvement.

Recently, the New Jersey State League of Municipalities inducted her into the Elected Officials Hall of Fame.

Councilwoman Talmadge is retiring from the city council this year, but she has left a legacy that will be remembered for many years to come.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me and the residents of East Orange in commending her service to her community.

PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, this past weekend, we remembered and reflected on the 78th anniversary of the devastating naval base attack in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. This act of war against our Nation prompted our entry into World War II.

The surprise attack by the Japanese on the morning of December 7, 1941, left 2,403 people dead. Among them were members of the U.S. Navy, Army, Marines, as well as civilians.

It was one of the deadliest attacks in U.S. history. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt described it as a "date which will live in infamy."

Madam Speaker, let us honor the lives of those brave Americans who perished on that day 78 years ago.

As President Roosevelt said: "No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people in their righteous might will win through to absolute victory."

And we did.

May God bless all of our Pearl Harbor victims and survivors.

12 DAYS OF SALT

(Ms. SHERRILL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SHERRILL. Madam Speaker, on this fourth day of SALT, my constituents have said to me that the SALT cap has impacted their ability to engage in charitable giving.

Capping SALT deductions will substantially reduce the number of itemizers and, therefore, will reduce the number of households that will benefit from the tax incentive for charitable giving.

The Tax Policy Center estimates that only 8 percent of all households will take the charitable gift deduction in 2018, compared to 21 percent in 2017.

While people give generously to charities for many reasons, studies clearly show a positive relationship between the existence of a tax incentive and the amount donated.

The reductions in giving that will result from this bill will be devastating to charities and to the people, communities, and causes that depend on them.

New Jersey's charities and nonprofit organizations provide critical services to our community that range from providing support services to individuals suffering from addiction to providing shelter for battered women and their children and providing disaster relief.

Additionally, New Jersey charities employ almost 10 percent of the State's private workforce.

The programs, services, and economic benefits provided by nonprofits are critical factors in making New Jersey an attractive place to live, work, or start a business. The SALT cap puts all of this at risk.

SUPPORT DEMOCRACY AND FREEDOM FOR THE PEOPLE OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

(Mr. WATKINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WATKINS. Madam Speaker, today I rise in support of democracy and freedom for the people of Jammu and Kashmir and the importance of protecting religious minorities in the region.

In August, the Indian Government rescinded article 370 of their Constitution, repealing autonomy of the region; and, since then, it has been cut off through widespread communications blackouts. There have been curfews, and some 4,000 people have been detained, which includes children as young as 9 years old. There have been reported human rights abuses and deaths resulting from inaccessibility to healthcare.

Madam Speaker, this situation cannot stand, and I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 745, which urges the Indian Government to uphold the democratic values upon which it was founded.

MASS SHOOTING AT THE NAVAL AIR STATION IN PENSACOLA, FLORIDA

(Mr. CRIST asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CRIST. Madam Speaker, last week, the Sunshine State was devastated by the 393rd mass shooting of 2019.

On December 6, a gunman opened fire at the Naval Air Station in Pensacola, Florida, killing three and wounding eight. One of the victims is Pinellas County's very own Mohammed Haitham.

Nineteen-year-old Mo, as he was known to his family and friends, was a track star at Lakewood High School in St. Petersburg and a shining example of all the best our community has to offer.

He joined the Navy to serve his country shortly after finishing high school, with a dream of graduating from flight school.

Our Nation was robbed of a sailor, and a St. Pete family was robbed of a son.

My heart goes out to Mo's family and loved ones as they try to make sense of the senseless.

Madam Speaker, we stand with the Haitham family. The entire community is behind them.

I pray for all those affected in Pensacola, and I pray for Congress to take action on gun violence.

CONGRATULATING ST. TERESA'S VOLLEYBALL TEAM

(Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to ad-

dress the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Coach Brad Dalton and the St. Teresa volleyball team on their first IHSA volleyball championship.

Last month, the Bulldogs played the Breese Mater Dei Knights for the Class 2A title and won the championship in two sets.

Although it was St. Teresa's fourth time competing in the State tournament, this was their best finish ever. The Bulldogs earned the school's first ever State championship title in volleyball—and first in Macon County history.

Offensively, the Bulldogs pulled off 21 kills and 3 aces in the first set, with an equally intimidating defense that racked up 32 digs, total.

In the second set, the teams tied 11 times, but an ace by senior Abby Robinson followed by a remarkable dig finished the match 26-24.

Coach Dalton said: "We fought and we fought. This is a big win for everybody in our program."

A historic win to cap off a whirlwind of a season. Congratulations to Coach Dalton and the entire Bulldogs team.

RURAL GREEN PARTNERSHIP

(Mrs. BUSTOS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to share with you a framework of principles to give rural America a seat at the table as we work to combat climate change. I call it the Rural Green Partnership.

For generations, farm families in Illinois have worked hard to provide food for our country and for the world, but this year has brought a challenging growing season. Farmers have seen shifting weather patterns and severe flooding delay and even prevent planting and harvesting.

Rural economies in Illinois and across the country depend on a stable climate to survive. Weather chaos means it is more difficult to grow our crops and put food on the table.

I am proud to put forward the Rural Green Partnership, and if we follow the principles in this plan, we can lower greenhouse gas emissions and spur economic growth.

Madam Speaker, I say to my colleagues: It is our moral and economic imperative to address this climate crisis and its impact on rural America.

I urge them to join me in enacting the policies outlined in the Rural Green Partnership so we can provide our farming communities with more than just a path forward but, also, an opportunity to prosper.

RECOGNIZING VETERAN OF THE MONTH JOHN THIES

(Mr. SPANO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SPANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring recognition to 30-year U.S. Army veteran Sergeant Major John Thies.

During his three decades of service to our Nation, mostly as a Special Forces Green Beret, he faced combat operations in Panama, Kuwait, Iraq, and Afghanistan.

Among the many highlights of his illustrious career was his participation with the third Operational Detachment Alpha to infiltrate Afghanistan following the attacks on September 11, 2001.

As a servicemember in all of these conflicts, John and his fellow warriors helped to bring down dictators, defeat insurgencies, and create conditions for the establishment of democracy. More importantly, his sacrifices brought hope to the suffering and peace to those in need of relief.

I believe Sergeant Major Thies' former commanders and peers summarized his career and impact well in sharing that he was one of the finest noncommissioned officers they had ever served with. That is high praise from our Nation's finest.

Madam Speaker, I thank John. I thank him for putting us before himself. We and our families slept better knowing he was on alert.

LIFT THE CAP ON THE STATE AND LOCAL TAX DEDUCTION

(Mr. CISNEROS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CISNEROS. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the taxpayers in my district and urge my colleagues to quickly pass bipartisan legislation to lift the cap on the State and local tax deduction.

Capping the deduction hurts homeowners and undermines State and local efforts to invest in our roads, schools, teachers, and first responders.

Setting the cap at \$10,000 for both individuals and joint filers unfairly punishes married couples.

Richard from Walnut wrote that while he and his wife are trying to plan for their retirement, "the net result of the cap was less money in my pocket."

Kyle from Yorba Linda wrote to me: "This new marriage penalty is a slap in the face to those of us who are trying to grow our roots in your district."

I introduced bipartisan legislation with my colleagues, Representative SHERRILL from New Jersey along with Republican Representatives PETER KING and ELISE STEFANIK.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of my constituents, I urge my colleagues to join us in support of this legislation before the year's end.

□ 1930

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF PENN STATE CREW TEAM

(Mr. KELLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KELLER. Madam Speaker, this month, Penn State celebrates its 25th anniversary. On behalf of the people of Pennsylvania's 12th Congressional District, I congratulate them on their rich history of success.

The crew team at Penn State started with humble beginnings in the winter of 1994. While they had no equipment, the team possessed a passion for the sport and a will to do whatever was necessary to make the team successful.

In an example we can all be proud of, Penn State crew's first Schoenbrod was borrowed from Bucknell University, another great institution of higher education in Pennsylvania's 12th Congressional District.

Later, through hard work at fundraising by selling concessions at football games, cleaning Beaver Stadium, and selling crew apparel, the team was finally able to purchase its own equipment in the fall of 1995. From there, the program has never looked back.

Penn State crew men's and women's teams have had a proud record of achievement that should make them very proud: sweeping podiums and inspiring a new generation of crew participants from experienced rowers to novices.

Again, Madam Speaker, on behalf of the people of Pennsylvania's 12th Congressional District, I congratulate Penn State crew on celebrating their 25th anniversary.

PUERTO RICAN ACTION COMMITTEE

(Mr. VAN DREW asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, today, I would like to acknowledge the Puerto Rican Action Committee of southern New Jersey, an organization dedicated to supporting the Hispanic community in our area.

PRAC was originally created in 1971 to promote economic opportunities for agricultural workers and has since expanded its vision to encourage social, cultural, and economic actions that better the lives of Hispanic individuals. The organization has several programs in place to celebrate the vibrant culture of these people and to provide educational opportunity for the surrounding communities.

The PRAC of southern New Jersey has implemented Hispanic culture, arts, heritage, entertainment, and sporting initiatives to bring people together and to foster a sense of good community. Among all Hispanic individuals in south Jersey, community is so important.

The group also offers cultural diversity training programs to local companies in order to encourage a diverse workforce and to open job opportunities for minorities across the entire region.

PRAC has been fundamental in lifting up the Hispanic members of our community, and we thank them for the great work they do to make south Jersey an inclusive and prosperous place.

CONGRATULATING FRISCO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

(Mr. TAYLOR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, today, I rise with my fellow Texan, Dr. BURGESS, to congratulate the Frisco Chamber of Commerce on earning a 5-star accreditation from the United States Chamber of Commerce.

Frisco is home to some of the most innovative and booming businesses in Texas and throughout the entire country. Partnering with approximately 1,300 member businesses who represent more than 75,000 employees, the Frisco Chamber of Commerce goes above and beyond to provide the business community with a powerful voice through its advocacy efforts and partnerships.

The Frisco Chamber of Commerce received the highest accreditation awarded by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce as a result of their effective organizational procedures and community involvement.

After earning this accreditation, the Frisco Chamber of Commerce is now among the top 2 percent of chambers in the Nation to receive this prestigious designation.

I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the Frisco Chamber of Commerce on this tremendous achievement.

HONORING DAVID MIXNER

(Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend, David Mixner, the legendary civil rights activist, best-selling author, and humanitarian known throughout the world for championing LGBT equality, healthcare, non-violence, and human rights for nearly 60 years.

I had the privilege of working and learning from David, an experience I will never forget, when I worked as White House staff secretary to President Bill Clinton. In the mode of our own JOHN LEWIS, David inspired a generation of us with his pioneering work for equality and documented those struggles in his seminal autobiography, "Stranger Among Friends."

David's leadership and wisdom shaped—indeed, made possible—my career and the careers of so many of us. He taught us to never tire of the fight and to always wage it with love.

From his early work with Harvey Milk defeating discriminatory laws

against LGBT teachers, to demanding real action in funding to combat the AIDS epidemic when our government was failing our community, David changed our Nation for the better. I know I speak for an entire LGBT community and our many allies in thanking David for his decades of activism.

At this very moment, he is giving what may be his final public performance in New York City before beginning his retirement. While I so wish I could be there tonight, my presence here, in this Chamber, in many ways is itself a tribute to David's lifetime of work.

And while the public phase of David's career may be drawing to a close, I know David's words and deeds will live on for many generations to come. He represents the best of America. He is a true patriot and a stranger no more.

U.S. NATIONAL GUARD BIRTHDAY

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, this Friday is the 383rd birthday of the U.S. National Guard. Established in 1636, the National Guard is the oldest military organization in America. Its members served during times of war and emergency to keep American families safe and secure.

This anniversary allows us to come together to honor those who have risked their lives to protect our freedom. These sacrifices show that freedom is not free.

South Carolina is fortunate for the service of Adjutant General Van McCarty appointed by Governor Henry McMaster in the tradition of retiring Adjutant General Bob Livingston.

As a veteran of the Army National Guard and the father of three Army National Guardsmen who have served in Iraq, Egypt, and Afghanistan, I appreciate servicemembers, veterans, and military families. I am grateful for the resolve our servicemembers have to protect American families. I am thankful to celebrate this birthday of the militia filled with brave, self-sacrificing men and women.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

CHEMISTRY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

(Mr. LIPINSKI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, today, the House passed a bipartisan bill that Mr. MOOLENAAR joined me in introducing, H.R. 2051, the Sustainable Chemistry Research and Development Act.

Chemical products are part of our everyday lives, from toothpaste, to shampoo, cosmetics, dish soap, clothing, and

even Legos. Because these products are all around us, we need to prioritize the development of chemicals that are affordable, meet our needs, and are green, meaning that they protect our health and the environment.

By supporting research and educational efforts in green chemistry, my bill will ensure that American companies have the workforce and tools they need to create safer and more environmentally friendly products, while creating new American jobs.

H.R. 2051 is commonsense legislation that is a win for American workers and our health and environment.

Madam Speaker, I urge the Senate to act quickly and pass this bill.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO BOARD OF VISITORS TO THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. HAYES). The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 9445(a), and the order of the House of January 3, 2019, of the following Member on the part of the House to the Board of Visitors to the United States Air Force Academy:

Ms. SPEIER, California

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 40 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 2125

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LANGEVIN) at 9 o'clock and 25 minutes p.m.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. 1790, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020

Mr. SMITH of Washington submitted the following conference report and statement on the bill (S. 1790) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2020 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

(For conference report and statement, see proceedings of the House of December 9, 2019, published in Book II.)

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's

table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 743. An act to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the soldiers of the 5307th Composite Unit (Provisional), commonly known as "Merrill's Marauders", in recognition of their bravery and outstanding service in the jungles of Burma during World War II; to the Committee on Financial Services; in addition, to the Committee on House Administration for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 26 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, December 10, 2019, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

3223. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances (18-4) [EPA-HQ-OPPT-2018-0697; FRL-10002-30] (RIN: 2070-AB27) received December 3, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3224. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances (18-2) [EPA-HQ-OPPT-2018-0649; FRL-10001-47] (RIN: 2070-AB27) received December 3, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3225. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Fenpyroximate; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2018-0162; FRL-10002-00] received December 3, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3226. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Findings of Failure To Submit a Clean Air Act Section 110 State Implementation Plan for Interstate Transport for the 2015 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) [EPA-HQ-OAR-2019-0603; FRL-10002-78-OAR] received December 3, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3227. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Department's final rule — Propamocarb; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2018-0623; FRL-10000-33] received December 3, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3228. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental

Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances (18-3) [EPA-HQ-OPPT-2018-0650; FRL-10001-94] (RIN: 2070-AB27) received December 3, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3229. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Illinois; Sulfur Dioxide [EPA-R05-OAR-2018-0072; FRL-10002-81-Region 5] received December 3, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3230. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Missouri; Revisions to Cross-State Air Pollution Rule Annual Trading Program and Rescission of Clean Air Interstate Rule [EPA-R07-OAR-2019-0337; FRL-10000-20-Region 7] received December 3, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3231. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Wisconsin; Title V Operation Permit Program [EPA-R05-OAR-2018-0285; FRL-10002-80-Region 5] received December 3, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3232. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Etoxazole; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2018-0644; FRL-10000-97] received December 3, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3233. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; ID; Update to CRB Fee Billing Procedures [EPA-R10-OAR-2019-0403; FRL-10002-75-Region 10] received December 3, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3234. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of Defense, transmitting Transmittal No. 20-0A, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(5)(C) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3235. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 18-083, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3236. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 19-056, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3237. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 19-070, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3238. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Office of Strategic Operations and

Regulatory Affairs, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Major notice — Medicare Program; CY 2020 Inpatient Hospital Deductible and Hospital and Extended Care Services Coinsurance Amounts [CMS-8071-N] (RIN: 0938-AT76) received December 4, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

3239. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Office of Strategic Operations and Regulatory Affairs, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Major notice — Medicare Program; CY 2020 Part A Premiums for the Uninsured Aged and for Certain Disabled Individuals Who Have Exhausted Other Entitlement [CMS-8072-N] (RIN: 0938-AT77) received December 4, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

3240. A letter from the Assistant Secretary of Defense, International Security Affairs, Department of Defense, transmitting a report; jointly to the Committees on Armed Services and Foreign Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia: Committee on Education and Labor. H.R. 3. A bill to establish a fair price negotiation program, protect the Medicare program from excessive price increases, and establish an out-of-pocket maximum for Medicare part D enrollees, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 116-324, Pt. 3). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. NADLER: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 5038. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for terms and conditions for nonimmigrant workers performing agricultural labor or services, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 116-328, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. PALLONE: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 5035. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to extend expiring provisions relating to the retransmission of signals of television broadcast stations, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 116-329). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. MORELLE: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 748. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 729) to amend the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 to authorize grants to Indian Tribes to further achievement of Tribal coastal zone objectives, and for other purposes (Rept. 116-330). Referred to the House Calendar.

Ms. WATERS: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 3621. A bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to remove adverse information for certain defaulted or delinquent private education loan borrowers who demonstrate a history of loan repayment, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 116-331). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. PALLONE: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 2328. A bill to reauthorize and extend funding for community health centers and the National Health Service Corps; with amendments (Rept. 116-332, Pt. 1). Ordered to the printed.

Mr. SMITH of Washington: Committee of Conference. Conference report on S. 1790. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2020 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes (Rept. 116-333). Ordered to be printed.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committees on Ways and Means, Education and Labor, and Financial Services discharged from further consideration. H.R. 5038 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

REPORTED BILL SEQUENTIALLY REFERRED

Under clause 2 of rule XII, bills and reports were delivered to the Clerk for printing, and bills referred as follows:

Mr. PALLONE: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 2328. A bill to reauthorize and extend funding for community health centers and the National Health Service Corps, with an amendment; referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure for a period ending not later than January 29, 2020, for consideration of such provisions of the bill as fall within the jurisdiction of that committee pursuant to clause 1(r) of rule X.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. WALDEN (for himself, Mr. BRADY, Ms. FOX of North Carolina, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. NUNES, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. SEN-SENBRENNER, Mr. SCALISE, Ms. CHENEY, Mr. UPTON, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. LATTA, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, Mr. OLSON, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. KINZINGER, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. LONG, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. FLORES, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. GIANFORTE, Mr. PALMER, Mr. COLE, Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. KELLER, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee, Mr. RIGGLEMAN, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. HUIZENGA, Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. BABIN, Mr. HAGEDORN, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. PENCE, Mr. HILL of Arkansas, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. MITCHELL, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. GREEN of Tennessee, Mrs. MILLER, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. BANKS, Mr. COMER, Mr. McCAUL, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. BUDD, Mr. COOK, Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. STEIL, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr.

GONZALEZ of Ohio, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. MARCHANT, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. HOLDING, Mr. ESTES, Mr. REED, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mrs. ROBY, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. HURD of Texas, Mr. WATKINS, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. TURNER, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mr. GUEST, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. WALTZ, Mr. WRIGHT, and Mr. GIBBS).

H.R. 19. A bill to provide for certain reforms with respect to the Medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act, the Medicaid program under title XIX of such Act, the Food and Drug Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. BEATTY:

H.R. 5360. A bill to require the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System to collect more data on race and wealth, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER (for herself and Mrs. RODGERS of Washington):

H.R. 5361. A bill to improve and coordinate interagency Federal actions and provide assistance to States for responding to public health challenges posed by emerging contaminants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. GABBARD (for herself and Mr. CASE):

H.R. 5362. A bill to amend the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to authorize spittlebug research and extension grants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Ms. ADAMS:

H.R. 5363. A bill to reauthorize mandatory funding programs for historically Black colleges and universities and other minority-serving institutions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mrs. BEATTY (for herself, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. NORTON, Mr. McEACHIN, Mr. CLAY, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, and Mr. BROWN of Maryland):

H.R. 5364. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish an annual reference price for insulin products for purposes of Federal health programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, Armed Services, Veterans' Affairs, Oversight and Reform, and Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FLORES (for himself, Mr. LONG, and Mr. STEUBE):

H.R. 5365. A bill to require the Federal Communications Commission to approve or deny a license transfer application within 180 days of submission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BROWN of Maryland (for himself, Mr. SARBANES, and Mr. SCOTT of Virginia):

H.R. 5366. A bill to require the Secretary of the Commerce, acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to provide grants supporting research on the conservation, restoration, or management of oysters in the Chesapeake Bay; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. BURCHETT:

H.R. 5367. A bill to prohibit the provision of foreign assistance to border countries that are not taking adequate measures to stop child pornography from entering the United States; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. DELBENE:

H.R. 5368. A bill to provide for secure disclosure of tax-return information to carry out the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GALLAGHER:

H.R. 5369. A bill to require the imposition of sanctions pursuant to the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act to combat corruption and human rights violations perpetrated by officials in the Mexican Government, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GOSAR (for himself and Mr. STANTON):

H.R. 5370. A bill to require the General Services Administration to remove a deed restriction on property located in Prescott, Arizona, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 5371. A bill to authorize grantees of Department of Justice grants to set up task forces on policing in local communities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SMITH of Washington (for himself and Ms. SCHRIER):

H.R. 5372. A bill to clarify that employees of safety net health plans are eligible for loan forgiveness under the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. THOMPSON of California (for himself, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, and Ms. DEGETTE):

H.R. 5373. A bill to reauthorize the United States Anti-Doping Agency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. AXNE (for herself, Ms. CHENEY, Mr. BACON, and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska):

H. Res. 749. A resolution recognizing the 50th anniversary of Taco John's and celebrating the contributions the company and its franchise owners provide to local communities across the country; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BURGESS (for himself, Mr. WALBERG, and Mr. NUNES):

H. Res. 750. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that individual choice in health insurance should be protected; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in

each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. BASS (for herself, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, and Mr. GRIJALVA):

H. Res. 751. A resolution reaffirming the partnership between the United States and the African Union and recognizing the importance of diplomatic, security, and trade relations; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. DEUTCH (for himself and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina):

H. Res. 752. A resolution supporting the rights of the people of Iran to free expression, condemning the Iranian regime for its crackdown on legitimate protests, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. JAYAPAL (for herself, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, Mr. KILMER, Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. SMITH of Washington, and Mr. HECK):

H. Res. 753. A resolution commemorating the life of William D. Ruckelshaus; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. SIREs (for himself, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL, Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. COSTA, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. McCaul, Mr. YOHo, Mr. GUEST, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico, and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey):

H. Res. 754. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States should continue to support the people of Nicaragua in their peaceful efforts to promote democracy and human rights, and use the tools under United States law to increase political and financial pressure on the government of Daniel Ortega; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. WALDEN:

H.R. 19.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 and Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mrs. BEATTY:

H.R. 5360.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution

By Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER:

H.R. 5361.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 18

By Ms. GABBARD:

H.R. 5362.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The United States Constitution including Article I, Section 8.

By Ms. ADAMS:

H.R. 5363.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mrs. BEATTY:

H.R. 5364.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution

By Mr. FLORES:

H.R. 5365.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. BROWN:

H.R. 5366.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. 1, Sec. 8, Cl. 18)

By Mr. BURCHETT:

H.R. 5367.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV,

Section 3, Clause 2. The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State.

By Ms. DELBENE:

H.R. 5368.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

By Mr. GALLAGHER:

H.R. 5369.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. GOSAR:

H.R. 5370.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 (the Property Clause).

Under this clause, Congress has the power to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States. By virtue of this enumerated power, Congress has governmenting authority over the lands, territories, or other property of the United States—and with this authority Congress is vested with the power to all owners in fee, the ability to sell, lease dispose, exchange, convey, or simply preserve land. The Supreme Court has described the enumerated grant as one “without limitation” *Kleppe v New Mexico*, 426 U.S. 529, 542–543 (1976) (“And while the furthest reaches of the power granted by the Property Clause have not been definitely resolved, we have repeatedly observed that the power over the public land thus entrusted to Congress is without limitation.”) The conveyance codified by this legislation is thus constitutional.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 5371.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. SMITH:

H.R. 5372.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18. To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. THOMPSON:

H.R. 5373.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 33: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.
 H.R. 141: Mr. CASTRO of Texas and Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ.
 H.R. 208: Mr. CASE and Ms. GABBARD.
 H.R. 218: Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina and Mr. ROUZER.
 H.R. 344: Mr. GOTTHEIMER and Mr. WITTMAN.
 H.R. 570: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
 H.R. 571: Mr. GALLAGHER.
 H.R. 649: Mr. FOSTER, Mrs. LEE of Nevada, and Mr. GOODEN.
 H.R. 808: Mr. GUEST.
 H.R. 895: Ms. MCCOLLUM.
 H.R. 912: Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CUNNINGHAM, Mr. GOLDEN, Mr. COSTA, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. BRINDISI, Mr. PHILLIPS, and Ms. PLASKETT.
 H.R. 935: Mr. RASKIN.
 H.R. 1002: Ms. HOULAHAN and Ms. JOHNSON of Texas.
 H.R. 1043: Ms. BASS.
 H.R. 1139: Mr. BEYER.
 H.R. 1173: Ms. GARCIA of Texas.
 H.R. 1175: Ms. DEAN and Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee.
 H.R. 1179: Mr. RASKIN.
 H.R. 1220: Mr. LEWIS.
 H.R. 1227: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
 H.R. 1301: Mr. HUFFMAN.
 H.R. 1367: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN and Ms. SEWELL of Alabama.
 H.R. 1379: Mrs. RADEWAGEN.
 H.R. 1400: Ms. BROWNLEY of California.
 H.R. 1435: Mr. COX of California.
 H.R. 1528: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
 H.R. 1530: Mr. TRONE.
 H.R. 1542: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
 H.R. 1597: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, and Mrs. LURIA.
 H.R. 1695: Mr. MCCAUL and Mr. TAKANO.
 H.R. 1754: Ms. PINGREE, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. PRESSLEY, and Ms. ADAMS.
 H.R. 1784: Ms. SHALALA.
 H.R. 1786: Ms. DELBENE.
 H.R. 1814: Mr. CALVERT and Mr. PAYNE.
 H.R. 1840: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
 H.R. 1873: Mr. SERRANO.
 H.R. 1901: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
 H.R. 1943: Ms. BROWNLEY of California.
 H.R. 1948: Mr. PASCRELL and Ms. PLASKETT.
 H.R. 1975: Mr. MOULTON and Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
 H.R. 1987: Mr. LIPINSKI.
 H.R. 2000: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
 H.R. 2137: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.
 H.R. 2222: Mr. KIND.

H.R. 2258: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.
 H.R. 2283: Ms. JUDY CHU of California and Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania.
 H.R. 2300: Ms. SCANLON.
 H.R. 2301: Mr. GRIJALVA.
 H.R. 2349: Mr. KIND.
 H.R. 2374: Mr. POSEY.
 H.R. 2411: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
 H.R. 2431: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
 H.R. 2466: Ms. BROWNLEY of California.
 H.R. 2482: Ms. TLAIB and Mr. KATKO.
 H.R. 2568: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
 H.R. 2584: Ms. PINGREE.
 H.R. 2599: Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma.
 H.R. 2653: Mr. SCHIFF and Mr. MCNERNEY.
 H.R. 2668: Ms. SPANBERGER.
 H.R. 2731: Mrs. RODGERS of Washington and Mr. RASKIN.
 H.R. 2732: Mrs. HAYES.
 H.R. 2742: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.
 H.R. 2802: Mr. MARSHALL, Mrs. AXNE, and Ms. SLOTKIN.
 H.R. 2858: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
 H.R. 2895: Mr. RUTHERFORD.
 H.R. 2896: Mr. CONNOLLY.
 H.R. 2897: Ms. DELBENE.
 H.R. 2990: Mr. THORNBERRY.
 H.R. 3073: Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. SOTO, and Mr. KIND.
 H.R. 3082: Ms. HAALAND.
 H.R. 3107: Mr. ROUZER, Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, and Mr. KIM.
 H.R. 3113: Mr. AGUILAR, Ms. BASS, and Mr. YARMUTH.
 H.R. 3373: Ms. JOHNSON of Texas.
 H.R. 3415: Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma.
 H.R. 3503: Ms. LEE of California.
 H.R. 3517: Mr. CASTRO of Texas.
 H.R. 3524: Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ.
 H.R. 3561: Mr. HILL of Arkansas and Mr. KIND.
 H.R. 3584: Mr. ADERHOLT, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. GOODEN, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mrs. MURPHY of Florida, and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.
 H.R. 3598: Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma.
 H.R. 3645: Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ.
 H.R. 3693: Mr. GRIJALVA.
 H.R. 3927: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
 H.R. 3937: Mr. KILMER.
 H.R. 3956: Mr. RUSH and Mr. HARRIS.
 H.R. 3961: Mr. CISNEROS.
 H.R. 4069: Mr. WALKER.
 H.R. 4142: Mr. BEYER.
 H.R. 4194: Miss RICE of New York, Ms. UNDERWOOD, and Mr. LAMBORN.
 H.R. 4227: Mr. KHANNA, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. HURD of Texas.
 H.R. 4228: Mrs. MCBATH.

H.R. 4229: Mr. KHANNA, Mr. OLSON, and Mr. MCGOVERN.
 H.R. 4232: Mr. BERA.
 H.R. 4278: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.
 H.R. 4283: Ms. CRAIG.
 H.R. 4404: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.
 H.R. 4429: Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio.
 H.R. 4464: Mr. HIMES.
 H.R. 4508: Mr. TURNER.
 H.R. 4512: Mr. RASKIN.
 H.R. 4527: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
 H.R. 4589: Mr. GOLDEN.
 H.R. 4794: Ms. STEFANK.
 H.R. 4817: Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia.
 H.R. 4821: Mr. MCADAMS and Mr. KILMER.
 H.R. 4864: Mrs. LURIA, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, and Mr. CASE.
 H.R. 4881: Mr. KING of Iowa and Mrs. ROBY.
 H.R. 4900: Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia.
 H.R. 4996: Mr. CUNNINGHAM.
 H.R. 5004: Mr. NADLER.
 H.R. 5038: Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. DELGADO, Mr. KIND, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. RUIZ, Ms. ESCOBAR, Ms. BASS, and Mr. O'HALLERAN.
 H.R. 5044: Mrs. RODGERS of Washington.
 H.R. 5048: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.
 H.R. 5063: Mr. SOTO and Mrs. LURIA.
 H.R. 5082: Mr. CLINE.
 H.R. 5127: Mr. SMITH of Washington.
 H.R. 5170: Mr. HIGGINS of New York.
 H.R. 5185: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.
 H.R. 5191: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
 H.R. 5199: Ms. SCHRIER.
 H.R. 5221: Mr. SIREs.
 H.R. 5260: Mr. CROW.
 H.R. 5289: Mr. RIGGLEMAN, Mr. HARRIS, and Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia.
 H.R. 5294: Mr. CLEAVER.
 H.R. 5297: Mr. BALDERSON and Mr. VELA.
 H.R. 5299: Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. ROSE of New York, and Mr. MALINOWSKI.
 H.R. 5306: Ms. SÁNCHEZ.
 H.R. 5309: Mr. CARSON of Indiana and Mr. MCEACHIN.
 H.R. 5315: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.
 H.R. 5340: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.
 H.R. 5343: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.
 H. Con. Res. 27: Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.
 H. Con. Res. 50: Mr. STEUBE, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. ZELDIN, and Mr. WRIGHT.
 H. Con. Res. 68: Mr. CÁRDENAS.
 H. Res. 91: Mr. PAPPAS.
 H. Res. 214: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
 H. Res. 299: Ms. MATSUI.
 H. Res. 452: Ms. MCCOLLUM and Mr. LANGEVIN.
 H. Res. 527: Ms. SÁNCHEZ and Mr. SHERMAN.
 H. Res. 727: Mr. BILIRAKIS.
 H. Res. 732: Mr. PAPPAS.
 H. Res. 736: Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana.
 H. Res. 742: Ms. MCCOLLUM.

NOTICE

For conference report and statement, see proceedings of the House of December 9, 2019, published in Book II.